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CONTENTS

22 December 1989

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Leaders Hold Final Session in Muscat *[WAKH]* 1
- Final Statement Issued *[WAKH]* 1
- 'Muscat Declaration' Issued *[WAKH]* 3
- GCC Officials Comment *[WAKH]* 4

Libya, Syria Not To Resume Ties With Egypt *[Cairo AL-WAFD 19 Dec]* 5
Al-Shar' Meets Egyptian Counterpart in Paris *[Damascus TV]* 6
Egyptian, Libyan Liason Offices To Open in 1990 *[Abu Dhabi Radio]* 6

Islamic Affairs

Tripoli Islamic Meeting Ends; Statement Issued *[JANA]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

Commentary Assails 'Flagrant' Panama Intervention *[Voice of the PLO]* 7
Ways To Change U.S. Position on PLO Analyzed *[Voice of the PLO]* 7
Fatah's Khalaf on Representation, Intifadah *[Kuwait AL-WATAN 15 Dec]* 8

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Hamrouche Addresses Youth on Security, Islam *[Algiers Radio]* 12

Egypt

Mubarak To Chair Upcoming Sudanese Peace Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 12
'Sources' View Washington Talks on Middle East *[MENA]* 12
Official Denies Involvement in Attempt on Badr *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 18 Dec]* 13
Libyan Delegation Discusses Maritime Cooperation *[AL-AKHBAR 19 Dec]* 13
'Abd-al-Majid Meets Regional Counterparts *[MENA]* 13
AL-AHRAM Praises Relations With PRC *[MENA]* 14

Libya

JANA Editor Condemns U.S. 'Invasion' of Panama *[Tripoli Radio]* 14
- Foreign Liaison Bureau Reacts *[JANA]* 14
- People's Bureau in Panama 'Besieged' *[Tripoli TV]* 15

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Iraq's Husayn *[JANA]* 15
Major Jallud Meets With Iranian Ambassador *[IRNA]* 15
Third Session of Joint Arab-Chad Meeting Ends *[Tripoli TV]* 15
Commentary on 'Zionist Arrogance' Toward Egypt *[JANA]* 15
Justice Minister on Arab Security, Terrorism *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 17 Dec]* 16

Sudan

Al-Bashir Interviewed on Regional Relations *[London AL-TADAMUN 18 Dec]* 17

Government Confirms French Plane Shot Down *[AFP]* 20
Justice Minister Discusses Islamic Laws *[SUNA]* 20
Official on Upper Nile Military, Health Status *[Omdurman Radio]* 20
Southern Blue Nile 'Free of Rebel Forces' *[Omdurman Radio]* 21
Commentary on 'Outlaws' Withdrawal From Kurmuk *[Omdurman Radio]* 21

Tunisia

Concern Expressed Over Situation in Panama *[Tunis Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Amir Returns From Muscat GCC Summit 21 Dec *[WAKH]* 23
Amir Receives PDRY, YAR Ministers *[WAKH]* 23
Sudanese Official Leaves Manama 20 Dec *[WAKH]* 23

Oman

Saudi King Extends Current Visit to 23 Dec *[Muscat Radio]* 23
UAE, Saudi, Omani Ministers Leave for Paris *[WAKH]* 23

PDRY

YAR Official Hails Steps Toward Democracy *[Aden Radio]* 23
Defense Minister Lectures on Unification Moves *[Aden Radio]* 24

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Return From Muscat 21 Dec *[WAKH]* 24

United Arab Emirates

President Zayid Returns From GCC Summit *[WAKH]* 24

IRAQ

World Condemnation of Panama Intervention Urged *[INA]* 25
Columnist Sees U.S.-Syria Scheme in Lebanon *[AL-THAWRAH 17 Dec]* 25
Foreign Ministry Source on POW Swap With Iran *[INA]* 26
'Aziz Warns Europeans on 'Openness' With Iran *[INA]* 26
Paper Says Al-Asad Breaches Arabs' Human Rights *[INA]* 26
Planning Minister, Saudi Fund Official Confer *[INA]* 27
Iraqi-Yugoslav Economic Committee Begins Meetings *[INA]* 27
Further on YAR, PDRY Unity Ministers' Visit 27
    Meet With Saddam *[INA]* 27
    Hold Talks With Jasim *[INA]* 27
PDRY President Congratulates Saddam on Rocket *[Voice of the Masses]* 27
Industrial Cooperation Talks Begin With Romania *[INA]* 27
French Air, Space Industry Head Meets Saddam 28
    Talks With Transport Minister *[INA]* 28

ISRAEL

Foreign Ministry 'Restraint' on Panama, Romania *[HA'ARETZ 22 Dec]* 29
Further Reaction to U.S. Operation in Panama 29
    Foreign Minister Arens Comments *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
    Press Reaction Cited 29
Rubinstein, Others Comment on Talks in U.S. 30
    Held in 'Positive Atmosphere' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

    Gaps 'Wide, If Not Unbridgeable' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Dec]* 30
Rabin Says PLO 'Scared to Death' by Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Apparent Shift in Syrian Media Policy Seen *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Egyptians Asked To Promote 'Positive Approach' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
ECONOMIST Report on 'Arafat Message Denied *[HA'ARETZ 22 Dec]* 31
Further Reportage on Violence in Territories 32
    Arab Teenager Killed in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
    2 More Killed in Bayt Furik *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
    IDF Operation Kills 2, Wounds 7 *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
    23 Wounded in Gaza Clashes 21 Dec *[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Dec]* 32

JORDAN

AL-DUSTUR: Panama Action 'Serious Precedent' *[22 Dec]* 33
Deputies Discuss Government Policy Statement *[JORDAN TIMES 21-22 Dec]* 33
Badran on Cooperation with Legislative Authority *[Amman Radio]* 34
Prime Minister Receives Egyptian Minister *[Amman Radio]* 34
Deputies Work for Release of Political Prisoners *[AL-RA'Y 18 Dec]* 35
Paper on University's 'Negligence' of Education *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 17 Dec]* 35

LEBANON

Al-Huss Interviewed on 'Awn, Syrian Presence *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
    Calls on 'Awn 'To Step Down' *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Al-Huss Comments on Talks With France's Rocard *[Beirut Radio]* 36
'Awn Speaks to Delegations on Army, Patriotism *[VOL]* 37
Sa'adah Asks Syria 'To Expedite' Withdrawal *[VOL]* 37
Gen Lahhud Receives New Soviet Military Attache *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Soviet Ambassador Meets Ja'ja', Makes Statement *[RFL]* 37
Minister al-Khalil Briefs President on Gulf Tour *[Beirut Radio]* 37
Shams al-Din, Birri Leave for Damascus 21 Dec *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Mufti Urges Southerners To Unite, End 'Sedition' *[Beirut Radio]* 38
Fadlallah Urges End to Amal-Hizballah Conflict *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Al-Musawi on Dangers of Amal-Hizballah Fighting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Amal Imposes Curfew in Iqlim al-Tuffah *[VOL]* 38
Militia Group Storms Town, Kills 3 in South *[Beirut Radio]* 39
    Retaliation Moves Detailed *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Two Rockets Fired at Beirut Combat Line *[VOL]* 39

SYRIA

Media Continue Comment on Need To Remove 'Awn 40
    Compared With U.S. Panama Move *[Damascus Radio]* 40
    Papers See Imminent Solution *[Damascus Radio]* 40
    Arab Solidarity Needed *[Damascus Radio]* 41
AL-THAWRAH Discusses Euro-Arab Dialogue *[Damascus Radio]* 41
Al-Zu'bi Lays Foundation Stone of 6 October Dam *[SANA]* 42

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

U.S. 'Aggression' Against Panama Criticized *[Kabul Radio]* 43
1 Killed in 'Extremists' Missile Attack on Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 43
Rebels Kill 20 Militiamen, Destroy Herat Post *[Islamabad Radio]* 43

Bangladesh

Government Silent on U.S. Action in Panama *[AFP]* 43
Chinese Navy Chief Calls on Military Officials *[Dhaka Radio]* 43
'Disgusted' Shanti Bahini Sergeant Surrenders *[Dhaka Radio]* 44

India

Gujral: U.S. Panama Action 'Highly Deplorable' *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Supreme Court Upholds Bhopal Gas Leak Settlement *[Delhi Radio]* 44
Paper Hails U.S. 'Unofficial Gesture' on Trade *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 12 Dec]* 44
Singh Replies to Debate on Confidence Motion *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Lok Sabha Adopts Motion on 'Majority Support' *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Rajya Sabha Approves Bill on Reservations *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Attack on Indian Cricketers in Karachi Condemned *[Delhi Radio]* 46
1 Killed, 5 Injured in Bombing in Srinagar *[Delhi Radio]* 46
7 Injured in Bomb Blast in Ludhiana, Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 46

Iran

Further Comment, Reaction to Panama Situation 46
    Action Contravenes UN Charter *[IRNA]* 46
    Doubts About U.S. Intentions Raised *[IRNA]* 47
    Papers Cited on U.S. 'Aggression' *[IRNA]* 47
Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Editorial on U.S., UK Blackmail in Peace Talks *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Dec]* 48
Commentary Views Turkey's EEC Application *[Tehran Radio]* 49
Further on Economic Protocol With Romania *[IRNA]* 50
Commentary on 'Hostile' Schemes Against Muslims *[Tehran International]* 50
Paper Assails Iraqi 'Obstructionism' Over POW's *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Dec]* 50
KEYHAN Interviews Kho'iniha on Elections *[12 Dec]* 51
Minister on Increasing Industrial Production *[Tehran Radio]* 52
PTT Minister on Increase in Digital Telephones *[ETTELA'AT 2 Dec]* 52
Cultural Revolution Council Secretary Interviewed *[Tehran Radio]* 53
Official Comments on Future Land Distribution *[Tehran Radio]* 53
TEHRAN TIMES Views Increasing Population *[12 Dec]* 53
*Report on Proceedings of 20 Nov Majles Session *[RESALAT 22 Nov]* 54
*Report on Proceedings of 29 Nov Majles Session *[RESALAT 30 Nov]* 59
*Report on 3 December Majles Session *[RESALAT 4 Dec]* 64

Pakistan

Foreign Office Voices 'Concern' Over Panama *[Islamabad Radio]* 67
Paper Comments on Outcome of Indian Elections *[HAIDER 29 Nov]* 67
PRC Public Security Minister Meets Ishaq Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
Chinese Delegation Meets Bhutto, Visits Factories *[Islamabad Radio]* 68
IAEA Director General Blix Meets Bhutto, Khan *[Islamabad Radio]* 68

Sri Lanka

Tamil Groups Meet With Tamil Nadu Chief Minister *[Colombo International]* 69

Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Leaders Hold Final Session in Muscat

JN2112112089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1010 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Muscat, 21 Dec (WAKH)—At noon today, leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] ended their 10th summit in Muscat under the chairmanship of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman.

In his speech in the final session, Sultan Qabus said: It gives us great pleasure to extend to you at the end of the 10th GCC summit the most sincere greetings and deepest feelings of appreciation and pride in all of you and in this good fraternal meeting in Oman. We were very happy with this meeting, and so were the Omani people who have strong bonds with your fraternal peoples. [passage omitted]

The following is the text of His Majesty Sultan Qabus' speech:

Brothers custodian of the two holy mosques and royal highness leaders of the GCC, your highnesses and excellencies members of the delegations: It gives us great pleasure to extend to you at the end of the 10th GCC summit the most sincere greetings and deepest feelings of appreciation and pride in all of you and in this good fraternal meeting here in Oman. We were very happy with this summit, and so were the Omani people who have strong bonds with your fraternal peoples. We cannot but extend to you the deepest gratitude for all your noble efforts and sincere contributions which helped accomplish this session successfully, thanks be to God.

Brothers custodian of the two holy mosques and your highnesses: We take the opportunity of these good moments to hail the spirit of fraternity which dominated our meeting. That spirit was, as it has always been, the strong motivation for all the positive resolutions and results, which we achieved and which reflect our belief in the great importance of the effective role played by the GCC in its vanguard experience to build a strong and fruitful cooperation. And, while we feel satisfied with the successful step we took during this meeting to support the constructive and good steps achieved by our brotherly march over the past few years, we believe this makes us more optimistic about the future. It also makes us more determined to unify our efforts to improve cooperation in all fields to serve our people's common interests and contribute toward achieving the prosperity which we desire.

Based on our appreciation of the role played by the citizens in the Gulf to achieve progress and prosperity, and out of our Council's desire to honor that role, medals of merit were given during the 10th summit to a number of citizens from the Council member states who made prominent efforts for the benefit of their Gulf countries, societies, and family. This marked the start of an initiative to award medals of merit, which will be agreed upon during future sessions, to express our appreciation of all examples of creativity and sacrifice in the member states.

Brothers the custodian of the two holy mosques and your highnesses: The political consultations we made during this session had a positive influence on coordinating our stands to entrench peace and stability in the region and to continue the support to the role played by the United Nations to achieve a peaceful, permanent solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict. These consultations also confirmed our interest in supporting legitimacy in Lebanon and backing the efforts to bolster national reconciliation among the Lebanese forces, and in supporting the Palestinian people in their just cause and legitimate struggle to achieve freedom and self-determination. Our consultations also revealed a common interest to sincerely contribute toward strengthening ties of Arab and Islamic solidarity and entrenching the spirit of cooperation and understanding on all international levels for the benefit of peace, security, and stability.

Brothers the custodian of the two holy mosques and your highnesses: As we conclude our meeting with best wishes for all of you, we are pleased that our next meeting will be held, God willing, in the State of Qatar in the hospitality of His Highness brother Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani and his fraternal people. We look forward optimistically to our renewed meetings in your fraternal countries with the hope that they will, God willing, be for the good and prosperity of the peoples in the region.

Finally, we extend many thanks to his excellency the secretary general, his assistants, and the secretariat for the major efforts which contributed toward accomplishing the work of this session.

We ask God, our best ally, to provide our march with more progress and success and to grant us his support. God's blessings be upon you. [passage omitted]

Final Statement Issued

JN2112115689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 21 Dec (WAKH)—'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary general of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] read the final statement of the 10th GCC summit in Muscat today. The following is the text:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

The Final Statement of the 10th Session of the GCC States' Supreme Council

The Sultanate of Oman, Muscat, 19-22 Jumada al-Ula, 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 18-21 December 1989.

In response to the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman, and with the help and care of God, the 10th session of the GCC Supreme Council was held in the city of Muscat from 19-22 Jumada al-Ula, 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 18-21 December 1989, in the presence of His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain; King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; His Majesty Qabus Bin-Sa'id, sultan of Oman; His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar; and His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, amir of Kuwait.

The Supreme Council studied all aspects related to the development of the Council's march and the means of bolstering it according to the aims cited in the basic law, the security situation in the region in the light of the stages of contacts on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, the situation in the occupied Arab territories and the dimensions of the Palestinian intifadah, the situation in Lebanon and the tripartite committee's efforts and al-Ta'if agreement, world developments, the current changes in Europe, and the international situation after the Malta summit.

The Council's March

From its follow-up of the march of cooperation and the requirements of collective action; recalling the principles and aims cited in the Council's basic law; in confirmation of what was contained in the 1987 Riyadh declaration and the 1988 Manama declaration, particularly about intensifying joint ventures; taking cognizance of the Ministerial Council's recommendations on the stages of implementing the economic agreement; and in confirmation of the Supreme Council's determination to continue to adopt all suitable steps to implement the remainder of the economic agreeement and to establish a unified Gulf market, the Council decides the following:

—To approve the rules of exclusion from the exemption of custom duties according to Article 24;
—To approve what was cited in the Ministerial Council's recommendation on the unified custom tariff;
—To approve what was cited in the Ministerial Council's recommendation on the mechanism of joint work;

The Council reaffirms its determination to implement the rest of the economic agreement for the sake of establishng a unified Gulf market.

Security Cooperation

Believing in the importance of military and security cooperation among the member states to maintain their security and stability, and desiring to achieve further coordination and integration in this field, the Council endorsed the recommendations of the defense ministers on building self-reliance according to the common vision and on the basis of the defense policy document.

The Peace Talks Between Iraq and Iran

The Council discussed the developments of negotiations between the two countries in light of Security Council Resolution 598 of 1987. The Council expresses appreciation for the efforts of UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to surmont all obstacles to these negotiations. The Council underlines its support for these efforts, which aim at bringing about a just, lasting, and comprehensive settlement of the conflict with a view to establishing peace and security in the region. The Council expresses conviction in the success of these efforts in light of the positive signs coming from both sides—signs that clearly indicate both countries' desire to establish peace and embark on a new stage of normal relations between them on the basis of mutual respect.

The Council calls upon the Security Council, especially its permanent member states, to support these efforts by all available means, including direct negotiations under the supervision of the UN secretary general, and to release the prisoners of war and return them to their homelands without delay to end their suffering and the agony of their families. This should help both sides achieve balanced benefits and interests that help implement Security Council Resolution 598.

The Council also appeals to the international community to exert further efforts to arrive at a just peace that takes into consideration the legitimate rights of all parties.

The Current Arab Situation

The Council reviewed the current Arab situation while recalling the resolutions of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca on the intifadah and its support for it and the struggle of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their land. The Council pays tribute to the heroic intifadah and appreciates the sacrifices of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. It underlines the Council's support and backing for the valiant intifadah toward achieving its aims. The Council appeals to the international community to support the intifadah, expose Israel's methods of oppression and terrorism, oppose Israel's measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and stop the acts of tyranny represented by deportations and demolishing houses, which contradict the principles of human rights and conflict with the most fundamental international norms and conventions.

The Council also supports the call for convening an international conference within the framework of the United Nations and with the participation of all parties, including the PLO, with a view to reaching a lasting and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question.

The Situation in Lebanon

The Supreme Council, having been briefed by the custodian of the two holy mosques on the al-Ta'if accord and the efforts and contacts of the higher Arab tripartite committee, reiterates its appreciation of the prominent role played by the committee to reach the al-Ta'if accord, and renews its support for the higher tripartite committee's work, expressing its appreciation of the efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques, His Majesty King Hassan II, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, stressing its readiness to contribute to boosting the committee's contacts and efforts. It reaffirms its support for Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi and the government of national reconciliation and the principles cited in the al-Ta'if accord so that Lebanon's unity and territorial integrity can be achieved and so that its national soil can be preserved. The Council appeals to the international community to continue to support the al-Ta'if accord and back the higher Arab tripartite committee's efforts and the Lebanese legitimacy strongly and clearly and to respect what is dictated by the recognition of legitimacy in dealing with the Lebanese state.

The Council appeals to all Lebanese parties to practice self-restraint and deal with matters at this critical stage with wisdom and patience in conformity with the al-Ta'if accord and within the framework of legitimacy as a basis for solving outstanding problems and removing the present obstacles for the sake of guaranteeing the unity of Lebanon—land and people—and entrenching its freedom, sovereignty, and independence.

The International Changes

The Council is closely following the world developments and events and calls for adopting steps that end tension and remove the causes of division in the world. It hopes that these developments will lead to an international understading to find just solutions to the regional conflicts, particularly the Middle East issue.

The Council also hopes that the world will witness closer economic cooperation that is based on reciprocal interests and that supports the economic development programs in the developing countries.

Negotiations With the European Group

The Supreme Council expressed its satisfaction over the completion of measures to ratify the cooperation agreement between the Council's member states and the EC which will come into effect on 1 January 1990.

On this occasion, the Supreme Council recalled the resolution adopted by it during the Bahrain summit to authorize the Ministerial Council to enter into official trade negotiations with the EC, and expressed the hope that the two sides can reach a balanced trade agreement which contributes toward improving and freeing trade exchange between them and which corresponds to the development needs of the Council member states.

While welcoming the convening of the first joint ministerial council in Muscat in March 1990, the Supreme Council hopes that relations between the two parties will, under that agreement, witness positive improvement which corresponds to the importance of the relations and the mutual interests of both parties.

The Council expresses its appreciation for French President Francois Mitterrand's initiative to resume Arab-European dialogue, and hopes that the meetings of the Arab and European foreign ministers will yield positive results in the interest of the two sides.

The GCC leaders expressed great appreciation and deep gratitude for His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id for the hospitality he accorded them as well as for the excellent arrangements to provide an appropriate atmosphere to achieve success.

The GCC leaders commend his majesty the sultan's initiative to honor the citizens of the GCC states who rendered prominent services to their societies and states. They also underlined the role of this initiative in deepening cohesion and links among the GCC citizens.

The Council looks forward to convening its 11th session in the State of Qatar next December at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar.

Issued in Muscat on 22 Jumada al-Ula, 1410 Hegira, corresponding to 21 December 1989.

'Muscat Declaration' Issued

JN2112150689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 21 Dec (INA)—Their majesties and highnesses the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states have issued a declaration to support and encourage the spirit of peace and understanding that is now prevailing in the world and to reaffirm the ties of brotherhood, faith, and common destiny of the GCC states.

The declaration, which is called "the Muscat Declaration," was read by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah after he read the final statement of the 10th GCC summit.

The following is the text of the Muscat declaration:

The political, social, and economic changes that have been taking place on the international scene since the convening of the ninth GCC summit in Bahrain and all their ramifications have compelled the countries of the world to develop their international policies and to follow a new line based on wider horizons and greater exchanges while each state, big or small, continues to preserve its national identity.

This new world climate makes it incumbent on everyone to strengthen the basis of cooperation instead of confrontation and struggle, from which mankind has reaped only ruin and destruction.

The GCC states have undertaken many good and constructive deeds within the Arab and Islamic families, as well as on the international level in general and presented a good example for joint brotherly work within the framework of national sovereignty. Their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders have been eager for their 10th summit to contribute to supporting and encouraging the spirit of peace and understanding prevailing in the world today. In order to reaffirm the ties of brotherhood, faith, and common destiny among the GCC states, entrench the concept of genuine cooperation, whose foundation is steadily rising on all levels, and promote the joint interests of their peoples in establishing distinguished relations, their majesties and highnesses the GCC leaders declare the following:

1. Affirming the principle of neighborliness as a basic and legitimate pillar to which the GCC states will adhere in their international dealings in conformity with the principles of Islamic religion and international conventions.

2. Affirming mutual respect for national sovereignty as a basic principle that must be firmly established.

3. Adopting dialogue and negotiations as an effective means to solve disputes among nations in line with the principles of peaceful coexistence defined by the United Nations and international law.

4. Supporting joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League, given that it is the Arab house under whose ceiling the Arabs meet to achieve stability and prosperity for their nation, and extending a hand of friendship and cooperation to all nations that care for truth, justice, and peace.

5. Considering the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations to be the cornerstone for the achievement of world peace and security and exploiting the prevailing detente in the international atmosphere within the principle of peaceful coexistence among nations to enable man to devote all of his potential to tackling his problems, especially poverty, ignorance, illness, and environmental pollution.

6. Boosting efforts aimed at consolidating peace between Iraq and Iran, continuing support for the persistent efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis on a basis of legitimacy and national unity, and stressing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state under the PLO.

7. Commending the existing policy of accord between the two superpowers, urging the enhancement of this policy to achieve further accomplishments in the international arena, and paying tribute to the growing accord among the European states to remove the causes for confrontation and disagreement in Europe, thus contributing toward entrenching world peace and security.

Issued in Muscat on 21 December 1989

GCC Officials Comment

JN2112200089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1815 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 21 Dec (WAKH)—'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas, Omani information minister and official spokesman of the 10th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council, and GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, held a joint news conference this evening.

At the beginning of the news conference, the Omani information minister delivered a speech in which he welcomed the media delegations covering the GCC Supreme Council 10th summit.

The GCC secretary general then answered the reporters' questions. The first question was on the unity between the two parts of Yemen. Bisharah noted that the GCC leaders received a joint message from the North and South Yemeni presidents in which they express their inclinations toward unity. Bisharah added that the GCC welcomes any friendly grouping that serves the nation's interests and backs the Arab people's aspirations for prosperity and stability throughout the nation.

Asked about the GCC's interest in the changes in Eastern Europe, the Omani information minister said: The stage of accord is in the nineties. He affirmed that the GCC states have a common view on the changes in the future.

Bisharah said: The Muscat Declaration is a response to the changes. The GCC asserts that the regional groupings reduce the distances. The Council also stressed the importance of development, including economic development, noting that the GCC leaders adopted a step to assess these swift changes in the world.

On U.S. interference in Panama, the Omani information minister said that the GCC always believes in the principle of peaceful dialogue among countries, and in noninterference in the internal affairs of any country.

On the GCC states' relations with Iran, the Omani information minister asserted that Iran is a neighborly country with whom we have strong relations. He added that the GCC trend is to support the peace efforts undertaken by the UN secretary general to achieve stability in the region. He called for not casting doubts on the nature of relations between the Arabian Gulf states and Iran, noting that this relationship is based on mutual respect between the GCC states and Iran.

On the GCC states' support for legitimacy in Lebanon, Bisharah said that the GCC leaders received a message from the Lebanese president on the situation in Lebanon on the occasion of the summit. He added that the GCC has a basic principle to support legitimacy in Lebanon so that security and stability will prevail there, noting that instability in the area affects the Gulf region.

The Omani information minister called for closing ranks and supporting legitimacy, affirming that the solution to the Lebanese crisis will come from the Lebanese themselves.

The information minister said that prevailing positive signs between Iraq and Iran, represented by the demonstration of goodwill through their orientation toward reconstruction and presentation of proposals to bolster negotiations to achieve a comprehensive peace, have prompted the GCC states support the continuation of contacts between the two countries. In this regard, he referred to the message sent by the UN secretary general to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on the convocation of the GCC Muscat summit, in which the UN secretary general expressed appreciation for the GCC role in supporting all international peace efforts.

On GCC support for the Palestinian intifadah, the GCC secretary general affirmed the GCC's support for the continuation of the Palestinian intifadah. He indicated that the GCC understands the repercussions of the continuation of the intifadah on both Arab and international levels.

In this regard, 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al-Rawwas called for a mechanism for the establishment of the Palestinian state. He said the PLO is the mechanism which is supported by the GCC states, given that it is the vehicle through which a Palestinian state will be established.

Responding to a question on customs tariff among the GCC states, Bisharah said: Now that 3 years have passed, a unified customs tariff must be reached and a ministerial committee should be authorized to follow up this issue and assess the obstacles facing this agreement.

On the decision to delay for 3 years an agreement on real estate ownership in the GCC states, 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah said that the issue of real estate ownership is a technical and complex one. He said this issue will be discussed next year.

He affirmed that what has not been achieved now will be achieved in the future. He explained that the GCC states constantly work through a futuristic, far-sighted perspective characterized by flexibility and vitality.

Responding to a question on the GCC states' preparations for entering the nineties, the GCC secretary general indicated that the GCC states will enter the nineties with a strong, firm, and deep-rooted Gulf grouping by concentrating on collective efforts. He indicated that ties and coordination among all the GCC states are being further consolidated.

On the GCC states' cooperation with the EC, Bisharah announced that a GCC-EC meeting will be held in Muscat next March during which economic and trade relations between the two groupings will be discussed.

He added that the GCC will hold a dialogue with the United States and Japan in the future to benefit from their advanced technology and to entrench the concept of dialogue between the GCC states and the EC. He indicated that the dialogue will focus on economic issues.

Regarding relations between the GCC states and the PRC, the GCC secretary general indicated that the world is now moving toward dialogue and communication. He said the absence of diplomatic relations between a state and another does not mean rupture and alienation. He affirmed that genuine relations are based on dialogue and communication.

In this regard, the information minister welcomed the Chinese president's tour of the region and said: The area states are looking forward to the Chinese president's visit in the service of dialogue, cooperation, and understanding between the GCC states and China.

Libya, Syria Not To Resume Ties With Egypt

JN2112171589 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Dec 89 pp 1, 6

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Arab diplomatic circles in Cairo affirm that Libya and Syria do not intend to resume full diplomatic ties with Egypt at the present time. The circles indicate that the issue of diplomatic representation between Cairo on the one hand, and Tripoli and Damascus on the other was not discussed during the meeting of presidents Mubarak and Al-Qadhdhafi. Nor was it discussed during the telephone conversation between President Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. The recent improvement in Egypt's relations with Libya and Syria, the circles said, is targeted at coordinating Arab stances in the coming stage, as well as reactivating Egypt's economic cooperation with Libya and Syria.

AL-WAFD has learned that Libyan President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will pay a visit to Egypt before the end of January in order to follow up consultations and talks with President Husni Mubarak and achieve full coordination between the two states on all levels. Cairo diplomatic sources say that Israel informed Washington last week of its deep concern over the recent development in Egyptian-Syrian-Libyan relations. Israel also expressed fear of further deterioration of Egyptian-Israeli relations in the upcoming stage. The sources expect the degree of tension in Syrian-Iraqi relations to ease in the coming weeks following the improvement in relations between Cairo and Damascus.

The sources asserted that Jordanian monarch King Husayn in a few days will begin a new round of mediation between Damascus and Baghdad. President Mubarak will also seek to bring closer the viewpoints of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and to open channels of direct dialogue between them. Iraq sets as conditions to discussing relations with Syria the latter's withdrawal from Lebanon and a halt to Syrian-Iranian cooperation against Iraq.

Al-Shar' Meets Egyptian Counterpart in Paris

JN2112203889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid on the sidelines of the ministerial meeting of the Europe-Arab dialogue. During the meeting, talks revolved around the agenda of the Europe-Arab dialogue, historical ties between the two fraternal countries, and means of strengthening the unity of the Arab position toward confronting the successive developments on the international arena.

Egyptian, Libyan Liason Offices To Open in 1990

JN2212102689 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] High-level diplomatic sources in Cairo report that Egypt and Libya have agreed to open liaison bureaus in both countries early next year before Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Egypt, slated for late January or early February 1990.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD cites these sources as saying that Alexandria will be headquarters to the Libyan liaison bureau in Egypt, while Tripoli will be headquarters to the Egyptian liaison bureau in Libya.

Islamic Affairs

Tripoli Islamic Meeting Ends; Statement Issued

LD2212230989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] 21 Dec (JANA)—The meetings of the provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership ended in Tripoli this morning with the attendance of Islamic scholars, thinkers, leaders, and influential forces that came from all over the world to the Great Jamahiriyah. A statement has been issued by the provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership at the end of its first meeting in which it saluted the brother leader of the revolution's courageous and leading role in defending oppressed Muslim minorities in Europe and espousing their causes.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership affirmed in its final communique its adoption of and commitment to the brother leader of the revolution's stance toward Muslim causes which is epitomized by the brother leader of the revolution's message to the French president to defend the rights of the Muslim community and to protect its Islamic culture and its civilized identity.

The provisional general secretariat of World Popular Islamic Leadership condemned in its final communique the French decision to reimpose sanctions against the Great Jamahiriyah as a result of the Islamic 1 September Revolution's human and courageous stances.

The secretariat saluted in its final communique the Palestinian generation of anger which leads the tremendous popular revolution, which has entered its 3d year, through its people's committees in occupied Arab Palestine. It also condemned all plots aiming at aborting the tremendous popular revolution in occupied Palestine as well as all other dirty attempts at political and informational black-out on its sacrifices and heroism. The general secretariat urged Muslim masses as well as all Islamic organizations and bodies everywhere to continue to increase its solidarity by all means with the popular revolution in occupied Palestine.

The provisional general secretariat of World Popular Islamic Leadership condemned in its final statement the colonialist plot being hatched by France against the freedom and independence of the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros which culminated in the ugly crime against the life of the martyred Ahmed Abdallah, president of the Islamic Republic of the Comoros, which was carried out by French intelligence circles, stressing that such a crime rings the bell of danger [word indistinct]. The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership urged, in its final communique, all Islamic countries and organizations to take the necessary measures of solidarity and to raise the problems of the Comoros at all regional and international organizations as well as at all political and information levels.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership saluted of the Moro Muslims and expressed its solidarity and support for their struggle to implement the clauses of the Tripoli charter, calling upon the Filipino Government to uphold its pledges in the Tripoli charter and respect Muslims' right to self-determination in a bid to bring about peace and spare the blood of innocent people.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership condemned in its final communique the U.S. wanton aggression against the sovereign state of Panama, condemning the U.S. policy of flexing its muscles and disregarding all international law and norms which guarantee states' independence and forbids aggression against their sovereignty and independence. It also urged in its communique all Islamic and international organizations and bodies to take serious measures regarding such stupid policies, given its dangerous repercussions on small and weak people's security and safety.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership urged in its final communique all Islamic and Arab countries and organizations to support fraternal Sudan's efforts to stand fast against the international plot aimed at dismembering its territorial integrity, [word indistinct] its people and sow sedition amongst its sons.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership affirmed in its final communique its full support for the Muslims' human and just causes in

India, Sri Lanka, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, the USSR, and Greece as well as other places in Africa and Asia, calling upon the concerned governments in the aforementioned countries to respect international charters and the rights of Muslim minorities by halting wrongdoing and repression against them and protecting their cultural and religious identity.

The provisional general secretariat of the World Popular Islamic Leadership affirmed the need to create [words indistinct].

Palestinian Affairs

Commentary Assails 'Flagrant' Panama Intervention

JN2112211889 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear brothers: The flagrant and ugly U.S. military intervention in Panama, a sovereign state, reveals once again how far the U.S. Administration can go in its failure to respect the sovereignty of world states, human rights, and democracy, which it pretends to cherish day in and day out. The extremely violent and dramatic nature of the U.S. military intervention confirms that the U.S. Administration has chosen to flex its muscles and show its arrogance by brandishing it in the face of the entire world to terrorize it. This is happening at a time when the world is witnessing great changes taking it toward democracy, peace, security, and stability.

Hence, the flagrant U.S. intervention in Panama actually and greatly frustrates man's aspirations, wherever he may be, to see these great changes producing positive results. At the same time, this intervention confirms the lack of credibility on the part of the U.S. Administration and its failure to make a serious effort to contribute to efforts to attain international stability and resolve regional conflicts through dialogue and political and peaceful means. This also confirms the lack of its credibility regarding the proposals it is making within the framework of the existing East-West dialogue.

It must also be stated that the flagrant U.S. military intervention in Panama justifies, no, gives new momentum to the Israeli policy of oppression, killing, and suppression against our Palestinian people. Besides, this intervention exposes the U.S. Administration's inclination to adopt hostile military solutions and to settle regional problems through oppression, killing, and aggression. Regarding the Middle East conflict specifically, this intervention confirms that the U.S. Administration is not serious in its efforts to settle this problem through political and peaceful means and that its Middle East option for settling the Palestine question can be likened to the Israeli option of repression, terrorism, and suppression which enjoys unqualified U.S. support and backing. This support enables the occupation authorities to continue to perpetrate their ugly crimes against our people with the aim of squashing the intifadah and getting out of the historic fix in which they were placed by our valiant intifadah. This policy and these bloody inhuman options will eventually fail. Moreover, they will never achieve any of their objectives, as the people's will is stronger and more powerful than that of imperialist forces—the forces of injustice, arrogance, and aggression.

The U.S. Administration will only be met with condemnation, denunciation, and disdain for this aggressive policy. Its military intervention in Panama cannot distract the international community's attention away from regional conflicts, foremost among which is the basic issue in the Middle East; namely, the Palestine question whose banners of glory and victory are flying high in the skies of the lands of the giant, ongoing intifadah, which will continue until the occupation is defeated and freedom and independence are extracted for our people and our national land, Palestine.

Ways To Change U.S. Position on PLO Analyzed

JN2112192389 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1747 GMT 21 Dec 89

[News analysis by radio correspondent: "It Is Possible To Change the U.S. Position"]

[Text] Dear brothers: The current U.S. Administration of President George Bush is not different from the previous U.S. Administrations regarding its position on the Palestine question and the PLO, its living political manifestation. We are saying this despite the continuation of the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, albeit theoretically speaking.

Three days ago U.S. President Bush repeated the statements that he made 2 weeks ago. He said that the United States will not bring pressure to bear on Israel to make it accept the PLO as a party to Middle East peace negotiations.

The United States is reiterating its hostility toward our Palestinian people and the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. However, the continuation of the popular Palestinian intifadah will inevitably force the U.S Administration to accept the realities pertaining to the Palestine question, the realities of the Palestinian revolution, the realities to be brought about by the glorious popular intifadah.

The problem now is that the glorious popular Palestinian intifadah needs political Arab pressure targeting the United States, and here the following question is posed: How are we to bring about a change in the U.S. position? The popular Palestinian intifadah, the Arab nation's masses, and all Arab states can put pressure on the United States to make it change its position. This can be done in the following manner:

First, the intifadah must be continued, stepped up, and promoted to allow it to make qualitative leaps to help create new realities and facts harming the Zionist occupation and the U.S. Administration. Second, the United States must be made to feel that the continuation of the intifadah jeopardizes its interests in the Arab homeland. Every day, the intifadah masses are shouting in the open skies of this Arab environment and wondering: Has not the time come for the adoption of a stand demonstrating a modicum of dignity and patriotism? We are not urging the Arab states to wage the intifadah battle on behalf of the intifadah masses. Besides, we are not asking them to wage a war like the 1967 war or the 1973 war. No, we are only calling on our Arab nation and its states to link their position toward the United States with the U.S. Administration's policy on our cause, especially the U.S. position on the right to self-determination and to establish a Palestinian state. In brief, we are asking for a unified Arab stand displaying a modicum of courage and national and pan-Arab pride.

The intifadah, under its Unified National Leadership—the PLO, appeals to the Arab masses and the Arab peoples to bring pressure to bear on their leaders in this regard. What is required is Arab and international pressure on the United States to make it change its position and intransigence. The PLO, which is making moves on the regional and international scenes, will enhance its activities on the U.S. scene to influence U.S. public opinion and turn it in favor of the Palestine question.

Fatah's Khalaf on Representation, Intifadah

JN1612180789 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 15 Dec 89 p 19

[Interview with Salah Khalaf, Fatah Central Committee member, by Raja Talab; date, place not given]

[Text] [Talab] Will the PLO accept that the Palestinian delegates to the proposed dialogue with Israel be announced through one of the intifadah statements?

[Khalaf] It is up to the PLO to select and announce the names of the delegates. There can be no compromise here. The Unified National Leadership of the intifadah is an integral part of the PLO. However, it does not figure that the names to be announced or any aspect of the negotiations will be handled any in other way except in the name of the PLO.

[Talab] Are you satisfied that no backstage contacts are being made behind the back of the PLO regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation from the inside for the dialogue with Israel?

[Khalaf] For a start, this is unacceptable. Other than the PLO, no one is empowered or entitled to conduct talks or hold consultations about the identity of the delegates. We would like it to be known that the list of the PLO representatives to the dialogue is ready. It will be made public in due course. All moves being made behind our back are unacceptable and will lead nowhere. We now hear that an adviser of the Egyptian Embassy in Tel Aviv is engaged in preparing a list of names. If the report proves true, it will be incompatible with all that we have agreed on. Neither Egypt nor any other Arab country has any business involving themselves in this matter. It is a purely internal Palestinian matter that must be addressed by the PLO. Assuming the report regarding the activity of the Egyptian adviser is accurate, I am surprised. And to some figures inside the occupied land who make pilgrimages to certain Arab capitals, I say they had better save their breath, since the composition of the delegation already has been settled by the PLO.

[Talab] Has Egypt advised the PLO on its response to the Baker plan and the conditions it has attached to its acceptance?

[Khalaf] I know nothing about the so-called Egyptian response. All I know is that there is a Palestinian response to the Baker plan—the one officially conveyed to the U.S. ambassador in Tunis as well as to Egypt for it to communicate to Washington. As a matter of fact, there is a Palestinian response and there is not an Egyptian one, since Egypt has no direct bearing on the Baker plan. According to the Baker plan, the relationship is with the PLO.

[Talab] How do you asses Egypt's role in the political process over the past few months?

[Khalaf] Egypt is trying to play a role to advance the political movement, for which we are thankful. A distinction must be made, however, between the Egyptian role that we have welcomed and the attempt to represent and deputize for the Palestinians. Baker's plan itself states that "it is to be understood that Egypt is not acting for the Palestinians." It is therefore important that a distinction be made between the Egyptian role advancing a settlement—something we highly appreciate—and Palestinian representation, which must be left intact. It should remain inviolable and beyond the reach of any Arab country. It is sacrosanct.

[Talab] With Egypt playing a mediating role between the PLO and the United States, what will become of the Palestinian-American dialogue, and when will it grow more dynamic?

[Khalaf] Egypt's mediation has not canceled out the direct Palestinian-American dialogue. This dialogue still has a role to play. At some point, the dialogue was conducted via Egypt, since the United States wants to evade the truth. Rather than addressing the Baker plan directly with the PLO, the Americans entered through the back door of Egypt. Initially, we thought that Egypt's role could make things easier. It turned out, though, that the United States and Israel want Egypt to represent the Palestinians. I think the Egyptian brothers are just as opposed to this thing as we are.

[Talab] It is being said by some that 2 years after the intifadah, Israel has come to terms with it, and that the intifadah ought now to effect a qualitative change in tactics. What do you think?

[Khalaf] This is rubbish that we won't buy. The intifadah is as strong as ever. The ongoing demonstrations, heroic acts of confrontation, strikes, building up of the national authority and the state institutions are manifestations of the intifadah. Nothing has changed. They want to drag us into saying that we will resort to arms in the intifadah. I am putting them on notice that we will not do this.

[Talab] Given lukewarm Arab support for the intifadah and the escalating brutality in handling it, which party has the time factor on its side?

[Khalaf] With or without Arab help, our people are determined to press on with the intifadah. I think, however, that there still are Arabs who will help. Arab beneficence has not been exhausted. Let us keep in mind that the intifadah is not tied up exclusively with the economic factor, important as it is. Let all rest assured, however, that, with or without help, the intifadah will continue until its objectives are attained. If you ask me about the time factor, I would also like to ask: Has it not been 40 years since we began our struggle? And yet, we are making our presense felt and here is the intifadah—the height of popular action and popular revolution inside the occupied territory. Not to mention the revolution's achievements over the past 20 years. We are also still engaged in armed struggle, which we have not declared suspended. We will continue to engage in armed struggle, and if, at times, it is curtailed, the goal is give a chance for the intifadah to build momentum. Armed struggle is one of the most important means which we cannot possibly do without. Every time we are faced with a dead end, we will resort to other means available to us. We will not leave the intifadah on its own against the enemy. We have many other means of recourse. Not that we have in our possession atom or hydrogen bombs, but our people's resources, though limited, can devise the right means for each stage of our struggle that will reinforce both the intifadah and armed struggle.

[Talab] How would you assess the launching of the Arab front for supporting the intifadah, which has recently concluded its preliminary meetings in Baghdad?

[Khalaf] I believe that launching this front will promote the popular Arab effort and push it to provide further support for the intifadah. This is a basic and important requirement at this phase, particularly considering that Arab support has been too weak and limited. During the recent Tunis meetings by the Arab foreign ministers, it was decided to observe a 2-minute work stoppage in all parts of the Arab world. It is regrettable that only Iraq abided by this resolution. Isn't this tragic? We hope that launching the Arab front for supporting the intifadah will make up for official Arab impotence by activating the popular support that can be channeled by this front and the parties that will join it.

[Talab] A year has passed since launching the Palestinian peace initiative. Nonetheless, political moves on the Palestine question are confined to ideas tackling Baker's plan. Why is that so?

[Khalaf] Since launching the Palestinian peace initiative, we have been dealing with any initiative concerning our cause, be it negative or positive. If the initiative proves to be negative, we attempt to make up for the negative points contained in it through the affirmation of our clear and firm stands. As for Baker's plan, it is a foggy plan that contains nothing. We addressed a host of questions to the United States on the plan. The answers received from the United States determined our reply to the plan. The reply, as you know, is not a secret. It has been announced. Due to the existence of a vacuum in the international arena, the United States has everything in its own hands. Hence, some situations give one the impression that the United States is the only party making moves in the arena. The United States does not want any role for anyone, not for Europe and not for the USSR. As is well known, when the Europeans attempted to just meddle with Baker's plan, they were stopped by Washington.

Since the United States, in light of this vacuum, has most of the cards in its hands, our basic endeavor centers on making efforts designed to prevent the world from placing political cards in U.S. hands, and also to convince the United States that what is taking place in the region does not only concern the Palestinians. We will attempt to convince the United States that the things that affect the Palestinians are bound to affect other areas. I believe that the changes currently under way in the Iron Curtain states that were pursuing Stalinist policies will also affect the Arab region.

[Talab] This leads us to the international factor, particularly the detente between the two superpowers. This detente, the intifadah, and the disengagement of ties [with the West Bank] were the catalysts for launching the Palestinian peace initiative. How would you assess this international factor in view of the outcome of the recent Malta summit regarding the Palestine question?

[Khalaf] The emphasis that we placed on international detente does not mean that we deluded ourselves into believing that this detente would be in our interest. We said that we launched our initiative to prevent detente from producing negative results that might harm our cause. We have not gambled on this detente as a savior, because there are some negative aspects resulting from this detente. We launched our initiative to prevent detente from sweeping away our national cause and to enhance the positive aspects that might come from detente if such aspects were to be seen.

Without any reservations, we support international detente, since the Palestinian peace initiative will not stand for any compromised solutions. What would a compromised solution mean? We have offered everything. Any compromised solution would be at our expense. Now, it is the others' turn to make concessions. It is Israel's turn to make concessions. Washington must push Israel to make it offer its own share of concessions for peace. We offered our share of concessions and that is it. Hence, in light of all the concessions that we have made, we can never accept compromised solutions.

Now, we view detente with earnestness and caution. In the absence of an Arab solidarity, the Arab states might be eaten away one after another. The Arab states are not stronger than the socialist states which have changed the ideology that they have been pursuing for 40 years within only days. As for the Malta summit, information that has reached us says that Bush and Gorbachev discussed the Middle East conflict in general terms and that they asked experts from both sides to discuss the issues pertaining to this conflict so that they can be dealt with more thoroughly during their next summit. Hence, no decisions were made on this conflict.

[Talab] How do you assess the situation in Israel after 2 years of intifadah, and do you believe that the political disparity within it is increasing?

[Khalaf] There are peace forces, but they are not big enough, and we must not have the illusion that those forces can formulate the decisions inside Israel. The intifadah has shaken the Israeli conscience and refuted Israel's claim that its occupation is a model, clean one. The intifadah has shaken such claims and convictions. In fact, due to the intifadah, the intransigent people grew more intransigent out of fear that what is to come will sweep away and destroy Israel and cross the green line. However, events have shown that the intifadah, particularly after the Palestinian initiative, is totally different. The goal of the intifadah is to build an independent Palestinian state in the region and coexist with other states on that basis. This gave the peace forces a greater ability to move and serve its objectives against the extremist forces which we mentioned.

Naturally, it is difficult for the strength of the peace trend to emerge all at once. If we take for example the recent Histadrut elections at which the Likud lost and received only 28 percent of votes, the demonstration taking place in Israel in support of peace, and the number of figures challenging Israel's decision and talking to the PLO, we can get an indication about the nature of the peace force inside Israel. In spite of all this, we should not give that movement a size larger than its true size, nor should we underestimate its size and say it has no influence at all.

[Talab] Where have the efforts to normalize relations between the PLO and the Syrian leadership reached?

[Khalaf] There has been a Palestinian decision made by the PLO to send a Palestinian delegation to Syria. We notice that there is now a great interest by the brothers in the Syrian leadership in the situation in Lebanon; it takes up nearly all of their time, and this is their right. When circumstances become appropriate—and God willing, this will be very soon—we will send our delegation to Damascus to open a new chapter in relations between us.

We hoped that during these days, and especially on the intifadah's 2d anniversary, a number of detainees who are subjected to torture in Syrian jails will be released. I do not believe the brothers in Syria are aware of what the Palestinian detainees in Syrian jails are subjected to. Therefore, we hope that a number of detainees will be released so that the delegation's visit to Damascus can be connected to a positive Syrian position, which will encourage the PLO to take its step in a positive atmosphere.

[Talab] How do you assess the elections experiment in Jordan and the steps that followed it?

[Khalaf] I support any democratic experiment in the Arab homeland. I believe the crisis in the Arab homeland is a crisis of democracy. Where there is democracy, there is a free citizen who can defend his homeland. Arabs can only show solidarity with our Arab people in the occupied territory in a democratic climate in which the Arab citizen can express himself, and any democratic process will fall within our comprehensive outlook toward the Arab- Israeli conflict. The Jordanian elections come within that sound direction, and they constitute a positive step, which will be faced by some people who will try to obstruct and foil it. I believe that King Husayn was brave enough to make the decision to hold the elections because he challenged many people.

[Talab] How do you assess developments in Lebanon, and what is the current level of relations between the PLO and the Lebanese nationalist forces?

[Khalaf] If we want to confine the Lebanese nationalist forces to the old classical framework, then I say that this framework is finished, because Walid Junblatt, who was the head of the nationalist forces, has reached a point where he accused the PLO of killing Rene Mu'awwad. The nationalist forces in Lebanon now are the people's forces, which are struggling and fighting against Israel along with the Palestinian resistance to liberate southern Lebanon. So, the old framework of classifying these forces is over, as I said. Although he knows who killed Mu'awwad and the party that contributed to the details of assassinating that president, Walid Junblatt accuses us of killing Mu'awwad. This is political hypocrisy. How long will we continue to tolerate this hypocrisy? We used to tolerate this in the past, when Walid Junblatt used to tell us, insult me so that Syria will be satisfied with me. How can we tolerate him now? In the past, and I am openly saying this for the first time, Walid Junblatt used to tell us, allow me, because I want to insult you, so that my relations with Syria will continue to be good. Is this hypocrisy acceptable in politics? Of course. However, for Junblatt to exceed all red lines and accuse us of assassinating Mu'awwad is something about which we cannot remain silent. Moreover, we cannot remain silent about his statements in which he says that the Palestinian intelligence is firmly entrenched in West Beirut to hatch plots. This is something which we cannot accept.

From this premise, when you ask me about the nationalist forces, I say that they are the deep-rooted Lebanese people who fought with us, endured us for several years, and gave us their own blood. These are the forces which we support and deal with. However, the classical symbols have ended. Nabih Birri was the hero of the camps war. Regrettably, I say that Nabih Birri's stand is now much better than Junblatt. We have no hostilities toward anyone. As long as Birri has taken his hands off the camps, we welcome him, and as long as he wants to correct the historic mistake which he committed against our camps, then this will end the past between us. Regrettably, we now feel that Birri is much closer to us than Walid Junblatt. History will reveal all the mistakes of these people. Where is the Walid Junblatt who came from Kamal Junblatt? Kamal Junblatt refused to eat with Sulayman Franjiyah because he killed Palestinians in 1973. At the time, he told him: I cannot eat with you because I feel that I am eating the blood of the Palestinians. Is this Walid?

Regarding the situation in Lebanon, we support the al-Ta'if agreement and the president, whoever he may be, because he is the symbol of Lebanon's unity. The conspiracy in Lebanon is aimed at partitioning Lebanon. If this takes place in Lebanon, then it will take place in the entire Arab homeland. Believe me, wherever there are Christian minorities, there will be partition. Partition will exceed sectarian limits and the Sunnis and Shiites to affect the Hanbalitic, Shafi'itic [two of the four orthodox Islamic schools of law], and others. Based on this, we say that we are for Lebanon and the president, any president, even if he is a scarecrow.

Regarding 'Awn, we have given our opinion that the way to achieve a solution should be political, because a military solution is useless. We hope that following its tour of Baghdad, Damascus, and Paris, the tripartite committee will have reached this political solution.

Algeria

Hamrouche Addresses Youth on Security, Islam

LD2212094489 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The national conference on integrating and developing youth concluded its meetings yesterday in the Palais des Nations in a public session attended by Mouloud Hamrouche, chief of the government.

The final session was distinguished with hearing and ratifying the final reports, which crowned the work of the five working committees.

At the end of the conference, Mouloud Hamrouche made a speech in which he reviewed the various issues in the national arena, especially some of the practices which constitute a danger not only to democracy but also to public security and national institutions.

Talking about the reforms, the chief of government stressed that those who try to throw doubts on these reforms and accuse the administration of retreating and attempting to liquidate the public sector, abandoning the interests of the workers, and pursuing an open-door policy, are the ones who want an open-door policy and want to liquidate the public sector.

Mouloud Hamrouche pointed out that the reforms will modernize the public sector and will give it an increasing effectiveness away from any pressures, and are aimed at establishing the independence of its will. The chief of government then talked about the administrative reforms and destroying bureaucracy. The management should be modernized and developed in order to progress along with the society. This could be achieved by changing its methods and increasing the efficiency of its officials.

Talking about the political reforms, the chief of government said that the vitality of the society and its development and dynamism precede the measures of reform, and the events of October come within this context. The chief of government considered the events of October to be the results of the rigidity of the institutions in all fields, and the results of pushing aside the majority of society, which was outside official organizations and away from the educational and vocational institutions.

Turning to the phenomenon of violence, Mouloud Hamrouche said: As a government, we accept some excesses in expressing and practicing liberties and the freedom to criticize; we are at the beginning of the road until society reaches a formula by which it expresses itself. But we do not accept violence, and we will stand forcefully against anyone who tries to threaten the pillars of the state and disturb its institutions. He pointed out that the institutions are permanent and belong to the people, and that democracy cannot be practiced except in a stable social situation which protects public security.

Mr Hamrouche added: In the future, we will put all the resources of the state at the service of protecting liberties and the freedom of the individual in expressing his opinion without pressure. Democracy is the cause of everyone, especially youth, because they are the ones primarily concerned with the future.

The chief of government warned youths against the professional politicians and demagogues, and not to become toys in their hands. He called on the youth to rise above shallow discussions, and to give more attention to the educational and vocational structure, especially the quality of the vocational training and its relation with the working world.

Concerning the youth societies, Mouloud Hamrouche stressed that the youth are free to organize themselves and societies, but these societies should remain independent from any quarter so that they would not be exploited for other purposes.

Concerning Islam, Mr Hamrouche stressed that spiritual cohesion is not in appearance or clothes, but is in arming the people with the spirit and values of Islam. He pointed out that the only threat to Islam is the attempt to exploit it for political aims. He said: We consider Islam above politics and the state.

In conclusion, Mr Hamrouche stressed that the battle is a battle of destiny, and a battle for the status of Algeria in the world. He also stressed that the future is in the hands of youth, who will have to face up to the challenges. He pointed out that the government will look after the issues of youth in a deeply radical way, and will use all methods and formulas for dealing with youth and listening to their views.

Egypt

Mubarak To Chair Upcoming Sudanese Peace Talks

NC2212083989 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Colonel Martin Mulwal Arap, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has said that Sudanese officials and representatives of the rebels in southern Sudan are expected to meet in Cairo shortly for peace talks. President Husni Mubarak, Col Arap said, will chair the meeting.

Col Arap expressed the hope that the meeting in Cairo will produce positive results, noting that all the Sudanese parties trust President Mubarak.

'Sources' View Washington Talks on Middle East

NC2212091189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0727 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] [No dateline as received] MENA has learned that, during talks that were held in Washington last week, Egypt clearly defined its position on the coming phase of the peace process. Preparations for this phase are currently under way, and the aim is to hold the first Palestinian-Israeli dialogue within the framework of the peace process.

Diplomatic sources closely connected with the week-long talks said that the Egyptian position, which was conveyed to the U.S. Administration, underlines the need for the Palestinians to play a genuine and effective role in the peace process, since no other party can replace the Palestinians in this regard.

The sources said that Egypt has made it clear that the tripartite summit which will presumably be held in Washington next month should not be a goal in itself. That meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers should be an opportunity to prepare for the desired real dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis. The sources added that Egypt has also made it clear that the dialogue should be seriously approached so that it may constitute a first positive step toward the achievement of a just settlement and the desired comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The diplomatic sources said that Egypt has underlined that no "conditions" or "assumptions" by any party should preclude the beginning of a genuine Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Egypt, the sources disclosed, expressed the view that unless positions are sufficiently defined within the coming few weeks, so as to show clear signs that positive results will be possible at the Washington meeting, the mere holding of the tripartite meeting will be worthless, for it will not make any contribution to the peace efforts.

It is worth noting that the U.S. capital was the venue of intensive exchanges all last week in preparation for the tripartite meeting. Dennis Ross, director of political planning at the U.S. State Department [name and title as received], held separate meetings with Eli Rubenstein, Israeli Cabinet secretary and adviser to the Israeli prime minister, who arrived in Washington for this purpose. Ross also held two meetings with 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi, Egyptian ambassador to Washington.

Official Denies Involvement in Attempt on Badr

JN2112162389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 18 Dec 89 pp 1, 21

[Excerpts] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies—Egyptian security authorities have begun widespread investigations to find another person believed to have participated in the abortive assassination attempt against Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr and to uncover the real name of the driver of the car that exploded on 16 December near the motorcade of the Egyptian interior minister. [passage omitted]

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD, Dr 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, mufti of the Jihad Organization in Egypt, denied that he or any of his followers in the Islamic group are involved in the incident. He said he was surprised when he heard about the incident. He expressed discontent with the use of violence and terrorism. He affirmed that he and members of the Islamic group are eager to perform their duty of preaching Islam wisely and through good advice and on resisting forbidden actions without the use of violence. [passage omitted]

Libyan Delegation Discusses Maritime Cooperation

JN2112163189 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 19 Dec 89 p 6

[By Faruq 'Abd-al-Mun'im in Alexandria]

[Text] A high-ranking Libyan maritime delegation headed by Dr Sa'id al-Ahrash, secretary of the people's committee and chairman of the Libyan national public company for maritime transport, has discussed the basis of cooperation between Egypt and Libya in the field of sea transport. This follows the decisions made during the meetings between President Husni Mubarak and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Matruh, Tubruq, and Surt. The delegation, which also comprises Badr al-Din Muhammad Abu-Khaysh and 'Abdallah al-Sumay'i, also visited some shipping establishments, the maritime transport academy, and the shipyard in Alexandria to discuss means of cooperation. The delegation also held meetings with maritime transport officials headed by 'Adil al-Barquqi, chairman of Egypt's public organization for maritime transport. AL-AKHBAR has learned that a decision was made to boost the amount of passengers, goods, and transit between Egypt and Libya. It was also agreed to boost cooperation in the field of manpower training and the exchange of expertise and visits with a view to promoting bonds of friendship and fraternity between the peoples of Libya and Egypt.

'Abd-al-Majid Meets Regional Counterparts

NC2112165089 Cairo MENA in English 1629 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, Dec 21 (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid received at his residence at Crillon Hotel his Syrian, Libyan, and South Yemeni counterparts.

The Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah al-Talhi said the meeting falls within the framework of constant coordination and consultation and is a continuation of that held recently in Surt between President Husni Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He added the meeting dealt with European-Arab dialogue, bilateral relations, and Arab issues in general.

The South Yemeni foreign minister said relations with Egypt took long strides since the restoration of ties between Egypt and South Yemen.

He and Mr 'Abd-al-Majid discussed the future of bilateral relations and the date of the coming visit of Dr 'Abd-al-Majid to Aden which will take place in March.

It is noteworthy that Dr 'Abd-al-Majid will deliver a speech tomorrow before the ministerial meeting of the European-Arab dialogue.

AL-AHRAM Praises Relations With PRC

NC2212111489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0624 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Dec (MENA)—AL-AHRAM writes today that the PRC's honorable position on the Palestinian issue is nothing new, but is completely in harmony with the record of the historical relations between the PRC and the Arab world in general and between the PRC and Egypt in particular.

The paper recalls that Egypt was one of the first countries to recognize the PRC as the sole legitimate representative of the entire Chinese people. At that time, the paper says, Egypt ignored all the ferocious campaigns by the imperialist West against the PRC to prevent that country from obtaining its natural and legitimate right to a permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

The paper notes the growth in Egyptian-PRC relations and says that there is every indication that these ties can be promoted in all fields.

The paper praises the PRC's assistance to Third World countries, indicating that the PRC is one of the essential pillars supporting the hope that Third World countries will be able to put into practice the slogan of breaking the (?arms) monopoly. The PRC has an honorable record in this regard which calls for trust and respect.

Libya

JANA Editor Condemns U.S. 'Invasion' of Panama

LD2112191189 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The U.S. President has admitted that the invasion of Panama operation has resulted in disastrous damage as far as the U.S. Army is concerned. He alleged that the U.S. soldiers were killed while defending democracy.

The JANA international affairs editor commented on this by saying: The invalidity of the U.S. interpretation of the meaning of democracy and human rights has become clear to international public opinion. The U.S. image has become what it used to be—an odious model detested by all peoples. What is surprising is that the United States keeps repeating and justifying its aggressive acts by taking refuge under slogans that it does not essentially believe. By what right can the United States talk about democracy?

The JANA international affairs editor wondered about this democracy. He said: Is it the democracy of the B-52, or is it the democracy of using destructive means against peoples who aspire to national liberties and independence? Is it the democracy of the U.S. intelligence that kills individuals by using the electric chair?

The JANA international affairs editor stressed that those who believe they can agree with the United States practice the proverb that says one should turn the other cheek. He pointed out that this attitude will contribute to the arrogance and dominance of the U.S. mentality.

The editor indicated that small peoples are reduced to the option of unity and preparation to struggle against this hostile attack that at their presence and freedom. The editor noted that history has taught us that right is permanent, and it expresses the feelings of the oppressed peoples, plants the seed of determination in them, and intensifies their militant will to face up to tyranny. The editor indicated that those who have no color, no taste, and no smell are to blame for this wrong stance, because they are unable to express an opinion or take a position that bolsters their oppressed humanity. The black U.S. dollar has devoured their brains and tied up their will in shackles that have exhausted the power of free thought in them and have ridiculed their stances to the point that calls for pity.

The editor ended his commentary by saying: The people will be victorious at the end of the day; survival is for the worthy, and not for the strongest.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Reacts

LD2112231589 Tripoli JANA in English 1833 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun 21 [21 December], JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's Pool—The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation summoned at noon today the ambassadors of the progressive states accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

They were informed about the stance of Great Jamahiriyah towards the military invasion by the U.S. Administration against the Republic of Panama, the steps it has taken to condemn such invasion and its demands to concentrate international efforts to stand against it, prevent it from achieving its goals, and prevent it from being repeated in the future.

Ambassadors were told that such invasion represents the organised state terrorism and is considered a continuation of the imperialist policy pursued by the U.S. Administration against the small and the developing nations.

Stress was placed upon the need to firmly condemn and confront this U.S. military invasion otherwise all small and developing nations will become subject for such aggression if they clinged to their freedom and refused to submit to the imperialist policies.

The bureau asked the ambassadors to convey Great Jamahiriyah's point of view and the measures it had taken to confront this treacherous aggression to their governments and stressed the need to take firm stances to condemn this aggression and stand in its face.

The progressive state's ambassadors, in statements to JANA, praised Great Jamahiriyah's stance from the U.S. invasion declaring the firm condemnations of their states to the U.S. invasion of the Republic of Panama.

People's Bureau in Panama 'Besieged'

LD2112211689 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau this evening summoned the Belgian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah. The Bureau informed the ambassador that information had reached the Bureau to the effect that the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Panama is besieged by a number of U.S. armored vehicles, a matter which leads us to expect a hostile action against the Libyan Arab People's Bureau there. The Bureau asked the Belgian ambassador to inform his government to convey this to the U.S. Government and to state that the Bureau holds the U.S. Government responsible for any damage caused to the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Panama.

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Iraq's Husayn

LD1512200789 Tripoli JANA in English 1730 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun 15 [15 December] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution sent a cable today congratulating the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on the success of Iraq in launching the al-'Abid missile system. The cable reads as follows:

Brother President Husayn—president of the Iraqi Republic, we congratulate you on the success of the experiment Iraq has carried out by launching al-'Abid missile system which were successful.

And we salute the Iraqi self-power on such grand Arab achievement.... We also salute the sons of Arab Iraq—engineers and technicians—who were able to complete this colossal work which is considered a step on the road of building the Arab self-power and a new means to enable the Arabs to lay down the foundations and the potentials of power to face their enemy which occupies their land and possess many means of destruction....

Once more brother president, we congratulate you on this mighty accomplishment.

Forward.... your brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Major Jallud Meets With Iranian Ambassador

LD1512133889 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, Dec 15, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Libya Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khornsari had an hour long meeting with member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council Major Abd al-Salam Ahmed Jallud here Thursday. The two discussed the Palestinian and Lebanese issues as well as other topics of mutual interest.

Major Jallud hailed the Islamic revolution in Iran, which he said was a strong support for Islam and the world Muslims including the Arabs.

The Libyan official also asked Khonsari to convey his sincere felicitations to the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i and President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

This was the second meeting between the Iranian Ambassador and Major Jallud within the last three weeks, before Hojjat ol-Eslam Khansari returns home at the end of his tenure in the near future.

Third Session of Joint Arab-Chad Meeting Ends

LD2212110989 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The third session of the joint Libyan Arab-Chadian committee, assigned to implement the Algiers accord singed between the Great Jamahiriyah and Chad, ended today.

The Chadian information minister and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli after taking part in the committee's meeting. He told JANA that his meetings with brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah were beneficial and constructive in laying down a firm basis for the brotherly relations between the Libyan Arab and Chadian peoples. The Chadian information minister expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to him and to his accompanying delegation in the Great Jamahiriyah. He said that bilateral relations between the two countries have witnessed positive developments and that we were working together to achieve a firmer rapprochement on the basis of our awareness that the future of peoples, especially those of the Third World, lay in their unity, the building of joint cooperation, and joint struggle against enemies and exploiters who wish to control our capabilities. He added: We would be happy to receive our brothers in the Great Jamahiriyah in Chad, and hope to unite all our energies for a prosperous future.

Commentary on 'Zionist Arrogance' Toward Egypt

LD1512224389 Tripoli JANA in English 1705 GMT 15 Dec 89

[Text] Tripoli, al-Kanun 15 [15 December], JANA Maghreb Union's Pool—The enemy radio quoted the Zionist Deputy Foreign Minister terrorist Binyamin Netanyahu, following a session of what is called the Zionist Knesset commenting on criticism by President Husni Mubarak of recent statements by terrorist Shamir saying, "The Egyptian president was trying to be simple minded by voicing such criticism of what the head of government Shamir had said."

JANA's Arab Affairs editor commented by saying "the Zionists are known throughout their history of terrorism to accumulate dark and deep hatred against mankind which became a part of them down deep in them souls and they practice in their daily lives, in their stances and behaviours.

"This is proved by all the scientific studies which analized and debated the Zionist personality composition as also is clear in their own books and myths, because we find them all the time on a low and degrading standard in dealing with others. Such behaviours were visible and were noticed by the public opinion in their attacks on international figures and heads of states who take a decisive line towards such Zionist anti-goodness and anti-peace behaviours".

The editor asserted that on top of such behaviours was the attack by terrorist Binyamin Natanyahu against President Husni Mubarak using words and phrases not suitable to describe a head of state...the Zionist mentality had confirmed such a trend in behaviour by which they want to deal with others. But Egypt with its long history of struggle is capable of repulsing and putting an end to such serious Zionist arrogance.

JANA's Arab Affairs editor added by saying, "Zionism is a great danger to Egypt and the Arab nations. The forces of our revolutionary nation abide by the inevitable and right solution embodied in the one and only way—the [word indistinct] of Palestine from the river to the sea and from the south to the south. [as received]

"All has been asserted about the insistence and the arrogance of the Zionist terrorist in order to foil all attempts made and all the attempts that led to the recognition for all that was without any result." He asserted that the whole world knew that those were nothing but a gang that thrives on war and the destruction and sabotage the potentials of other nations. As for the statements made they are an evidence of their aggressiveness and their disregard dispite all the serious attempts made by President Husni Mubarak, they confirmed the continued hatred towards the others and embody a low and mean behaviour to express their known Zionist hopes.

The editor concluded by saying these and those Zionists statements show the Zionists as indifferent and irrespectible of anyone. Our Arab nation has become more than any other time in the past facing a choice which it cannot avoid—confrontation and regaining our right and preserving our dignity.

Justice Minister on Arab Security, Terrorism

JN1912102589 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
17 Dec 89 p 26

[Interview with 'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri, secretary of the General People's Committee for justice, by Sawsan Abu-Husayn in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Husayn] What, in your opinion, is the most serious challenge threatening Libya in particular and the Arab region in general?

[Al-Hinshiri] I believe that our Arab nation is experiencing a difficult phase and it has to confront all challenges seriously and objectively because the Arab region is being exposed to fierce onslaughts planned by the Zionist entity, which exists in the occupied Arab territories, and the reactionary and imperialist forces that do not want the Arab nation to occupy its position among the other nations. To foil these plans, we should arm ourselves with the weapon of comprehensive Arab unity, including the formation of a defense and economic force to strengthen the unionist cohesion and establish one Arab entity that cannot be demolished for any reason. The existence of what is called Israel, which does not distinguish between one region and another, regardless of whether we recognize it or not, is also viewed as one of the most serious challenges to our external security because it is trying to disrupt security and stability in the Arab region and to threaten our internal security. This is how Libya understands security because Libya sees the Arab homeland's security from a comprehensive view. In other words, if the Arab nation had a unified security entity, the U.S. forces would not have been able to send their planes to raid the cities of Tripoli and Benghazi and to try to assassinate leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

[Abu-Husayn] Do you mean that comprehensive Arab security unity is a basis for internal and external security?

[Al-Hinshiri] Through comprehensive Arab security unity we can get an early warning of any attempt to commit aggression against any Arab country. As I said, the U.S. planes that raided Tripoli and Benghazi crossed several regions before they reached their target. If we had such unity, we would have received information from these regions and confronted the planes before they could reach our region. We conclude that external security is the basis of internal security because foreign forces usually exert efforts to fragment the Arab countries by disrupting their internal security by dispatching gangs encouraged by old and new imperialists to deal a blow to any plan for constructive joint Arab action. Moreover, there are foreign factions in the Arab region whose basic duty is to distort the social and intellectual culture of the Arab generations in order to create a generation with a distorted identity.

The Arab families contribute to attempts to obliterate the Arab identity by depending on foreigners to bring up their children, who learn habits and behavior that have nothing to do with our Arab region. I believe that this is a new foreign infiltration, which began with the usurpation of the Arab wealth and which will continue to dominate the Arab people.

[Abu-Husayn] During the last session of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, the Libyan Jamahiriyah suggested a call which should be implemented; this is to put an end to foreign infiltration in the Arab region. What do you mean by this call?

[Al-Hinshiri] We mean that it is known that the Arab region occupies one of the most important strategic locations in the world. The Zionist entity was implanted in the heart of the region on those grounds to remain a thorn in the side of the Arabs. Had the contrary been true, why did they not choose a country for themselves anywhere else in the world outside the Arab homeland? We all know what the presence of the Zionist enemy in this region means. In addition to that, we see other models of infiltration in the region, such as the presence of the foreign multinational companies working under various slogans of construction. In fact, their true goal is to exploit the resources of the Arab citizen and not give him the chance to exploit them or benefit from them. In the same manner, the imperialist "touristic" forces are employed in large numbers inside the Arab region to gather information about everything happening in the region in the minutest political, economic, social, and educational detail. They also spread certain diseases that have recently been introduced through tourism. The best example of this is the uncovering and arrest of networks infested with AIDS sent especially to the Arab region to spread this fatal disease in the bodies of the Arab nation's peoples. Concerning this issue, we call for organizing tourist operations in the Arab region and placing them under full control to put an end to such destructive methods. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is your definition of terrorism, and how can one put an end to it?

[Al-Hinshiri] Various crimes can be included under the title of terrorism. Some of these are committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories and the massacres and slaughter committed daily against a struggling Arab nation which fights with stones to liberate its homeland. Another example is the action committed by the kidnappers of the Kuwaiti airliner, al-Jabiriyah, last year, as well as what the United States is doing against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, starting with economic siege, onto direct attacks on innocent people, interfering with civilian flights, and attempting to prevent any Libyan Arab youth from studying and learning in the various important fields. We constantly condemn these terrorist manifestations and distinguish between organized international terrorism and the struggle of a people to implement a legitimate act according to the principles of the United Nations and international law. In this field, the Libyan Jamahiriyah emphasized the importance of holding an international conference for combatting terrorism, putting an end to it, and always standing against it in various ways. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Husayn] What is the future of Egyptian-Libyan relations following 13 years of estrangement?

[Al-Hinshiri] Undoubtedly, the meeting between Mubarak and al-Qadhdhafi was the strongest expression of the reaction to past misunderstanding. Following the meetings in Marsa Matruh and Tubruq between the two Arab leaders, progressive steps were taken in the field of constructive cooperation, which affects citizens' interests in both countries. Regarding security, the system of using identity cards for travel between the two countries was applied without the need for visas or passports. The Egyptian citizen has the right to travel, reside, and work in the Jamahiriyah. This is a progressive step between the two countries—Egypt and Libya—and we call for applying it to other Arab countries. This is because we in Libya call for making Arab identity cards into a single Arab identity card which can be carried by every Arab so that we can bring to an end the age of different Arab identity cards, and so that we stop referring to people as Egyptians, Kuwaitis, and Libyans. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Bashir Interviewed on Regional Relations

PM2012101489 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 18 Dec 89 pp 14-16

[Interview with 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] I asked Lieutenant al-Bashir, first, what the military—and especialy the Salvation Revolution—has achieved during the past few months for Sudan, over which it has assumed power. He said: During this limited period we have managed to achieve certain basic things which we thought were urgent for the country's security and the people's existence.

[Zaytun] Has the practical implementation of that plan begun?

[Al-Bashir] We started by lifting subsidies on basic commodities in order to ration consumption and support producers.

[Zaytun] However, that does not alleviate the burden on consumers. It was clearly done under pressure from the IMF.

[Al-Bashir] While withdrawaing subsidies for commodities, we are working simultaneously to stabilize prices. For instance, before the Salvation Revolution, the prices of commodities were determined on the basis of an exchange rate of 22 pounds to the dollar. However, we succeeded in lowering the dollar rate and strengthening the pound until the dollar was worth 12 pounds, thus reducing commodity prices. We have also reached a decision which we believe is the solution to Sudan's economic problems: To support the producer, not the consumer. This is because increased production enables us to increase exports and, consequently, the value of the pound. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Let us move from the economy to political concerns, since your extensive Gulf tour gives the impression that Sudan is concentrating on attracting the attention of the brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council. So, what do you expect from them?

[Al-Bashir] In addition to personal cooperation between me and the region's leaders, I am eager to consolidate bilateral relations between Sudan and every Gulf state. We are certainly also hoping to expand cooperation prospects. One of the important points in Sudan's foreign relations is that we are seeking to repair relations with brothers and friends which the former partisan regime sabotaged. We have succeeded in regaining the confidence of the Arab brothers in general—including the Gulf states—Sudan's Arab neighboring states, and the African states.

[Zaytun] That prompts us to ask about the status of relations with Egypt and Libya—the two neighbors on which most of Suadn's attention is focused. How are relations with them under the Salvation Revolution?

[Al-Bashir] Relations with Egypt are excellent now. It is a constant hope to set them in the right context; it is our northern neighbor. Besides, Egypt wields regional and international influence. We do not forget the positive role which Egypt is playing for the sake of establishing peace in the south and repairing relations with Ethiopia and the other African states, even with the rebel movement in the south.

[Zaytun] We learned that your recent talks with President Husni Mubarak dealt with ways of reviving the integration between the two countries. What truth is there in this?

[Al-Bashir] I discussed with President Mubarak general coordination between the two countries in all fields, and the period ahead will witness stronger cooperation, especially in the economic field.

[Zaytun] Will coordination extend as far as integration?

[Al-Bashir] Some plans examined under the past integration will be reexamined to benefit from them.

[Zaytun] But will integration be achieved?

[Al-Bashir] The old integration was in the form of joint establishments and exchanges of delegations. It was a form without substance. However, we are now seeking the substance and working for the interests of the two peoples.

[Zaytun] Can relations with Libya reach the same level?

[Al-Bashir] Relations with Libya are excellent, and there are prospects for economic and other cooperation. They are probably more special than in the past.

[Zaytun] What about relations with Chad?

[Al-Bashir] After the battles in which the Chadian forces entered Sudan, an understanding was reached with Chad on withdrawal from western Sudan. After that, problems will have been resolved and we will enter a new phase of relations.

[Zaytun] That leaves Ethiopia, which stirs up more problems than any other African neighbor. Apart from the fact that it is inciting the rebels in the south, driving millions of starving people into Sudan, and expelling Eritrean refugees to Sudan, it has crowned all these actions with its relations with the Israeli entity. What is your comment?

[Al-Bashir] We have discovered how much military aid Ethiopia has provided to the rebel movement. Israel's role in support of Garang via Ethiopia is now clear to everyone. In the past, Israeli aid to the rebel movement was supplied by convoluted and indirect channels, but now—after the restoration of Ethiopian-Israeli relations—these channels are direct and open.

[Zaytun] Does that mean new emigration operations for the Ethiopian Jews (Falasha)?

[Al-Bashir] The (Falasha) exist in Ethiopia, and in view of the open relations, I do not rule out their evacuation to occupied Palestine.

[Zaytun] Without a Sudanese mediation role, of course.

[Al-Bashir] Why should we be intermediaries in that deal? Why should they leave Ethiopia for Sudan and then proceed there? They can go directly to occupied Palestine, now that relations exist.

[Zaytun] What prompted me to ask the question is the fact that one of your advisers was formerly an officer under Numayri, namely, Al-Fatih 'Urwah. Does that not mean something?

[Al-Bashir] Al-Fatih 'Urwah was an officer who implemented, but did not plan, the former leadership's orders. He was not the direct decisionmaker. Having established his honesty, we found no objection to benefiting from his expertise and qualifications.

[Zaytun] But are there no (Falasha) remaining in Sudan among other Ethiopian refugees?

[Al-Bashir] A (Falasha) group has remained in the same location and in the same numbers since the 6 April 1985 uprising which toppled Ja'far Numayri. They were handed over to the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government and then to us, but they have not been evacuated elsewhere.

[Zaytun] How many of them are there?

[Al-Bashir] There are 45.

[Zaytun] Regarding Numayri, will you allow him to return to Khartoum?

[Al-Bashir] If he so desires, there is no objection.

[Zaytun] Will he be allowed to return in a certain capacity?

[Al-Bashir] As a citizen; if he performs any political activity, we will ban him. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Do you believe Garang is serious about peace?

[Al-Bashir] We are sure of Garang's intentions, which are against peace. That was clear when we invited him to attend the national dialogue conference which we held in Khartoum to crystallize the form of rule in the country.

[Zaytun] Does the continuation of your peace endeavors mean the suspension of your military operation in the south?

[Al-Bashir] Military action in the south will not stop as long as we have not signed a cease-fire. Obviously, the Army will work to regain the towns captured by the rebels. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Some Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] members have hinted at the acceptance of the separation of the south. Do you have such an option in mind?

[Al-Bashir] We have ascertained that none of the RCC members made such statements. We have established that it is a tendentious call from tendentious quarters to prepare people for the separation of the south and to distort our position.

[Zaytun] Does that mean that the separation of the south is not in the cards?

[Al-Bashir] Impossible. Sudan will remain united, north to south and east to west. Besides, the southerners themselves do not want separation. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Who do you believe provides aid to the rebel movement?

[Al-Bashir] The rebel movement receives aid from the various tendencies and forces hostile to the Arab nation—first and foremost, Israel and certain Western political and religious forces, including communist and church sectors.

[Zaytun] The United States has accustomed us to its having a hand in everything. Is it not involved in supporting the rebel movement?

[Al-Bashir] It has not been proved to us that the United States backs the rebel movement. In fact, it has opposed the rebel movement, which at the beginning raised Marxist slogans, which the United States is against in principle. As a result, the United States in the past provided aid to the Sudanese Armed Forces to confront the rebellion.

[Zaytun] What is the current U.S. position?

[Al-Bashir] Military aid was suspended owing to Congress' position, namely, that the Salvation Revolution was launched against what they consider democratic rule, because it is not customary for the United States to provide aid to any regime that is established as a result of a coup against a democratic system. We are now making contacts with U.S. officials to convince them that the new situation is better and reflects the population's wishes. We still hope that the United States will understand this, especially since it still has a resident ambassador in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] You accused John Garang of receiving aid from Israel. Do you have any evidence of it?

[Al-Bashir] John Garang was trained in Israel before he launched his rebellion. When reconciliation was achieved in southern Sudan in the seventies the Sudanese Army embraced him, but when he split again he exploited the strong relations that he built up during his training in Israel, developing them into major aid directed against Sudan's security and Arabism. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Do you have any plans to restore democracy or political pluralism in Sudan in the future?

[Al-Bashir] We do not wish to remain in power. We assumed power when we felt that there was a need for a change. When we carried out that task we knew that we were not the only competent people among Sudan's sons. In fact, we know that there are people who are more competent and probably more patriotic than us. However, we possessed the tools needed to make the change—something which was not available to others. But we believe that the change was in the people's interest, which is why we decided to make it.

As for the return to a party system similar to the former one, the Sudanese people have rejected that formula. It has been proved that the parties failed to rule. Our proof of this are the three party experiments in Sudan's contemporary history, which proved unsuccessful in ruling the people. It has never been proved that these parties achieved the principle of democratic participation. They showed no eagerness to diagnose Sudan's crises and find practical solutions for them. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] What about the application of Islamic shari'ah in Sudan, since some observers deem you sympathetic to it by virtue of your closeness to the Islamic tendency?

[Al-Bashir] The national dialogue conference endorsed the Muslim majority's right to apply its legislation in the country, with each non-Muslim area following whatever religious legislation may suit it. However, at the conference we added to the shari'ah the principle of custom as a major source of legislation. As for my closeness to the Islamic tendency, religious affiliation is a natural phenomenon among the Sudanese, whether Muslims or Christians. Most of Sudan has always been Muslim, even before the arrival of the Muslim Brotherhood. So why these classifications? The main thing is for the Sudanese ruler to be religious and clean, irrespective of his religion, so that he can be an example for his people.

[Zaytun] What do you intend to do about al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, whom you hold responsible for Sudan's experience during the period of party rule?

[Al-Bashir] Al-Sadiq will appear before a court to determine his role in ruining the country and then decide what punishment he deserves. We must not forget that al-Sadiq did not entirely fulfill the duties of his post. His main concern was to ensure that he remained and for Sudan to die, or to entrust the economic infrastrcuture to the Al-Mahdi family, without any concern for Sudan itself.

Government Confirms French Plane Shot Down

AB2112184789 Paris AFP in English 1812 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, Dec 21 (AFP)—The Sudanese Government confirmed that a plane carrying French aid workers was shot down Thursday in southern Sudan and accused SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels of being responsible.

The French charity Medicins Sans Frontieres (MSF), reporting the crash earlier from Paris, said all four people aboard were killed, including three French nationals. [passage omitted]

MSF, whose name means "Doctors Without Borders", identified the dead as Pilot Yvon Feliot, MSF staffers Dr Jean-Paul Bescond and Laurent Fernet, and Frazer Ariyaba, a Sudanese technician working for the United Nation's World Food Program. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Discusses Islamic Laws

EA1912161489 Khartoun SUNA in Arabic 1747 GMT 18 Dec 89

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Dec (SUNA)—The minister of justice and attorney general, Hasan Isma'il al-Bili, has said that the Islamic laws were frozen in the past in an attempt to (?review) the legal situation in its entirety, for reasons which included the secular campaign against the hudud [punishments based on religious law]. He explained that there was no dispute over the hudud, since the Penal Code of 1983 was the same as that of 1974, with the Islamic hudud law added to it.

Al-Bili added in news statements he made today, in response to a question on the subject of Islamic laws which have been frozen since the April 1985 uprising, that there had been demands following the uprising to discard the provisions relating to Islamic hudud. These demands contradicted the opinion of the Muslim majority. It was not possible to (?comply) [words indistinct]. He pointed out that for the sake of solving Sudan's security issues, particularly with the rebel movement, supported by some secularists, the previous Parliament decided unanimously that the executive authorities should not implement the Islamic hudud law. He said it was hoped that the matter would be placed on the negotiating table to settle all Sudan's problems, and that the minority would respond to the view of the majority that the hudud be applied.

Al-Bili went on to say in his statement that if it were confirmed that the minority would not accept the wishes of the majority in applying the provisions of its religion, then there would be no justification to tie the wishes of the Muslim majority to the secular or non-Muslim minority.

The minister of justice explained in his statement that the national dialogue conference on peace issues had formed a law committee, called the federal government committee, to prepare the necessary studies for the application of the federal system in Sudan. He said they would be submitted to the attorney general chambers when they reached the stage of codification in their final draft.

In his statement al-Bili noted the decision of the national dialogue conference that general laws should be national [words indistinct] issued by the Central Parliament and approved unanimously. The states of the federation would have the right to make exceptions only for laws of a religious nature.

He said it had been taken into account that states which had a non-Muslim majority would apply national laws in the area of punishments. [as received] In this connection, he made it clear that laws of a personal status in the national laws allow non-Muslims the right to have the stipulation of their religion or customary laws prevail in matters of personal status. [sentence as received]

Official on Upper Nile Milita[illegible] Health Status

EA2012230389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Major General Taj al-Sirr al-Badawi, commander of the Upper Nile Military Zone, has stressed that peace prevails in the zone. He said that the Armed Forces had secured the internal front and had drawn up the necessary arrangements for retraining the other regular forces in the zone so that they could work side by side with the Armed Forces.

The military zone commander of the Upper Nile region told SUNA that his command had created the right atmosphere to make the people aware by informing them about the efforts of the revolution to bring peace and ensure their safety in the region.

Concerning the supply situation in the region, Maj Gen al-Badawi said that there were surpluses in supplies. He pointed out that prices were still high but that in the past they had been higher. Some supplies used to filter into areas neighboring the region.

He said that the supply situation would improve greatly following the movement of barges from Kosti, which were expected to arrive in Malakal in the next few days. He stressed that all the requirements of the region and the Armed Forces should be satisfied more fully after the arrival of the barges.

As for the health situation in the region, Maj Gen al-Badawi said that there was an acute shortage of doctors, and medicines were in short supply, thus leading to the spread of several infectious diseases. He said that there were some voluntary and international organizations working in the field of relief in the region. They were providing many services in different fields. These organizations were the International Red Cross, Medecins Sans Frontieres, and the Islamic Call Organization.

[Khartoum SUNA in English at 0915 GMT on 21 December, in a report on Major General Taj al-Sirr al-Badawi's remarks, reports the following: "Gen al-Badawi said the region is facing acute shortage in medical cadres and supplies, leading to widespread typhoid, malaria, and other transmittable diseases."]

He said there were large numbers of victims of the war. He said that providing shelter for these people required efforts and working together by everybody to create small development projects and to provide (?relief) supplies and tents. He said there were defectors from the outlaws' forces who needed to be resettled and the right atmosphere prepared for them.

With regard to the educational situation, Maj Gen al-Badawi said that the schools in the region were in need of repairs, pointing out that education in the region was confined to primary level and to a small extent to intermediate school level. At present there were no secondary schools in the region since they had been moved to the north.

Southern Blue Nile 'Free of Rebel Forces'

EA1912181289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Dec 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reports: The areas of southern Blue Nile are completely free of rebel forces. The Armed Forces have completed their military operation to revive and mop up all the border areas in Shali al-Fil (Hora), Daym Mansur, and (Yayus).

Staff Major General 'Abd al-Fatah Hawari, commander of Damazin [Blue Nile Province] military area says: The Armed Forces have drawn up a military plan to safeguard the areas of southern Blue Nile, having learned from the two former attempts by the Sudanese Peoples Liberation Army.

Commentary on 'Outlaws' Withdrawal From Kurmuk

EA1912125989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful, so that we know the truth.

My brothers, peace be upon you. Today I would like to tell you some new truths. You may have heard the outlaws making noises on their radio, saying they have tactically withdrawn from Kurmuk. What tactics do they have? Where have they got the training for their tactics? Is it in Bilpam [SPLA training camp in Southwest Ethiopia] or in Cuba? I am sure that they do not know how to withdraw. They are just bandits who do not know how to withdraw, but after hearing that these people tactically withdrew, they decided to follow what they say.

I am saying that the Armed Forces' victories are many, and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] people witnessed these victories, and they will witness more. Our forces entered Kurmuk and raised the Sudanese flag high. They also captured [words indistinct].

Let us say something about Kaka. You may have heard them saying on their radio that they were not in Kaka when it was captured. That is shameful. In case anybody does not believe our report, how can they say nobody was there? How did they get the information that the Army had entered Kaka, if they were not there?

Moreover, 2 days ago they were saying that the peace talks had collapsed. Would I really be seeking peace if I held something in my hands and said: It is either this or nothing? They came with four conditions, and said the Army or the Sudan Government must accept these four points, like it or not. If you seek peace, but say: You accept these four points or forget it—do you want peace or war?

They make noises over their radio, saying: Junta. Do you really know the meaning of the word junta? Can you call the government of the homeland a junta, or should you be the ones to be called junta?

Their outlawed leader, Lam Akol, said that the government came for talks without planning for peace. If I want to go to peace talks, or even a marriage, can I go with conditions and present them, saying that these are the conditions I came with? No. I will just go and talk to those with whom I am meant to talk, sitting at a table. If both of us go astray, we will solve our problems, but not by going with conditions like their four. They thought the government would come with conditions. If they want conditions, we may come not only with 4 but with 40, or even 400. We have no doubt, talks should always be handled carefully, not with conditions.

They were the ones who let the peace talks fail. They said we misused words by publishing them in the newspaper, reporting that the peace talks had succeeded. For whom are we seeking peace, and who is dying? We, the Sudanese, who are dying. They also said we had held our own peace talks, and had come with proposals from them to Nairobi. But we would like to inform you that there were witnesses to that conference. These witnesses were brought from all over the country, including chiefs, and they were to be shown to you, but when you found out that the peace proposals were indeed very good, you said: No, we only want our four conditions.

Look at these people, especially the outlaws, who do not think. Perhaps these people have no better negotiator than Iam Akol, who insulted a great man, the former American president, telling him: You should not have come. Just think, is this sensible? There is a need for straightforward respect.

We should at least respect this man, because we, the Sudanese, are known for respecting others. We should not tell him: You should not have come.

Furthermore, they arrest our boys, for example the Baris, Latuka, Acholi, and Toposas, and mark them like the Dinkas. How can you arrest any of these tribes and mark them like the Dinkas? I assure you, the people, including the SPLA, that it is the SPLA who are not interested in peace. We will achieve peace, and if they want it, we can achieve it. We cannot die in the bush because of John Garang. Peace has to come, even if it means through war. We are ready to fight, but what is important here is that our main issue is peace, so that our country develops.

And then you people should know that some 617 recruits of the outlaws from among our brothers, who have realized that John Garang is just a destructive element, have crossed into Uganda. We congratulate them and say: Well done. Go and see for yourselves, and if it does not appeal, leave it.

The outlaws also made noises, saying there were some forces code-named "Jundi Allah" [God's soldiers] coming to reinforce Kurmuk, who would not get into Kurmuk or even return, but would all be killed. Now that "Jundi Allah" has entered Kurmuk with no problems, are they not ashamed of this utterance? They also said that if the Kurmuk reinforcements entered Kurmuk, then they would be useless. Indeed they are useless.

And then communist Garang says he wants to establish a democratic government, and that he is against kokora [Bari redivision]. But just listen carefully: He is now in Addis Ababa, and his wife and children are in London. Some of his children are studying in other developed countries, and our poor people who have heard his sweet words are in fact the ones doing the fighting, while they relax in hotels and travel at ease all over the world. I am telling you, the people, and the SPLA fighters, think about this commentary, and until we meet again peace be upon you and God's mercy.

Tunisia

Concern Expressed Over Situation in Panama

LD2112232989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] [Passage indistinct] which govern international relations as stipulated by the UN Charter and as emphasized by the present relaxation witnessed by the world, it regrets the escalation of the situation and the armed confrontation in Panama and the resorting to the use of violence to settle differences among UN member states.

The Tunisian Government considers that any conflict, no matter how serious it may be, should be solved through peaceful means, either through bilateral negotiations or through international or regional negotiations.

In this connection, the Tunisian Government expresses its hope that the Panamanian people will be able to recover its peace and security so that it will be able to exercise its right to self-determination freely and democratically.

Bahrain

Amir Returns From Muscat GCC Summit 21 Dec

JN2112182189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1440 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, returned to Manama from Bahrain this evening after leading the Bahraini delegation to the meetings of the 10th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council which ended today. [passage omitted]

Amir Receives PDRY, YAR Ministers

JN2212091189 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0800 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Manama, 22 Dec (WAKH)—The Bahraini amir, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah, has received a joint message from Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The message deals with the recent unity steps taken by the two parts of Yemen.

The message was delivered by YAR Minister of Health Dr Muhammad 'Ali Miqbil and PDRY Minister of Fisheries Salim Jibran during their meeting with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah this morning.

Following the meeting, Dr Miqbil told WAKH that he briefed his highness the Bahraini amir on the latest developments between the two parts of Yemen. He pointed out that his highness has shown understanding for any effort made for the benefit and well-being of the Yemeni people.

Sudanese Official Leaves Manama 20 Dec

JN2012135089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Colonel Salah al-Din Muhammad Karrar, Revolution Command Council member and head of its economic committee, and the delegation accompanying him left Manama today following a 3-day visit to Bahrain. [passage omitted]

Oman

Saudi King Extends Current Visit to 23 Dec

JN2112161589 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] We have just received the following statement from the Sultan's Office: On the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Ibn-Sa'id, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and king of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, will extend his current visit to the Sultanate until Saturday, 23 December 1989.

UAE, Saudi, Omani Ministers Leave for Paris

JN2112161889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Muscat, 21 Dec (WAKH)—Rashid 'Abdallah, United Arab Emirates [UAE] minister of state for foreign affairs, left Muscat for Paris today to lead his country's delegation to the Arab-European dialogue conference to convene in the French capital tomorrow, Friday.

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Saudi foreign minister, and Yusuf Ibn-'Alawi Ibn-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, also left with the UAE minister on the same plane to lead their countries' delegations to this conference.

PDRY

YAR Official Hails Steps Toward Democracy

EA1812123189 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and member of the Permanent Committee in the northern part of the homeland [Yemen Arab Republic], who is cochairman of the Political Mobilization Committee, has welcomed the decision of the 18th extraordinary session of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, on the right to establish political parties.

In a statement carried in today's AL-THAWRI newspaper he said that any step along the path toward democracy and the ending of a one-party system in running the country's affairs was very welcome. He stressed that a general tendency towards greater democracy currently is a paramount tendency in the policies of the leaderships of the two parts of the homeland.

He was asked about the four options for the future of political activities in the united state, and whether the second and fourth would be the ones to be adopted. He explained that discussions within the Permanent Committee had indicated that there were no objections to these options. The discussions clearly confirmed that everybody was prepared to be flexible.

Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani further added that the general tendency and the overwhelming consent for the second and fourth alternatives was beyond dispute.

It is worth mentioning that the second option stipulates that the YSP and the General People's Congress would preserve their independence, while patriotic forces and patriotic individuals in society would have the right to practice political activities. The fourth alternative aims at establishing a political organization formed from a kind of broad patriotic front, comprising the YSP, the General People's Congress, and patriotic forces that cherish the goals of the 26 September and 14 October revolutions, provided these forces maintain their independence within the framework of the broad front.

Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani expressed hope that the forthcoming meeting of the political mobilization committee would take further steps to fulfill the committee's tasks within the 2-month period stipulated by the unity summit in Aden. He expected that the meeting would be overwhelmingly successful.

Defense Minister Lectures on Unification Moves

EA1912105389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Brigadier Salih 'Ubayd Ahmad, member of the political bureau and minister of defense, paid a visit this morning to the 25th Brigade, where he met the soldiers and delivered a very important lecture, in which he pointed to the resolutions of the party central committee's 18th extraordinary session, as well as to the latest developments in the Yemeni arena following the historic Aden agreement between the leaderships of the two parts.

As the key note to his lecture, the brother defense minister, pointed out the struggle of the Yemeni patriotic movement since the fifties for Yemeni unity, land and people, and the setbacks which had impeded the realization of the reunion.

On the role of the Armed Forces, brother Salih 'Ubayd Ahmed emphasized that the Armed Forces would remain faithful to the goals and principles of the September and October revolutions, as they uphold the profound and absolute belief in making sacrifices for the sake of a united and prosperous Yemen, whose roots will become robust when a united Yemeni army is established.

Answering questions, the brother defense minister stressed that the resolutions of the central committee's 18th extraordinary session were wise and calculated, and that the current stage of the comprehensive political and economic process called for a broad participation of the masses, of all noble patriotic forces, parties and political organizations throughout the Yemeni arena, who believe in and defend the goals and gains of the glorious September and October revolutions.

Qatar

Amir, Delegation Return From Muscat 21 Dec

JN2112181989 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1710 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpt] Doha, 21 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, and the accompanying delegation returned to Doha from Muscat this evening after participating in the 10th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council concluded there today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

President Zayid Returns From GCC Summit

JN2112182489 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1450 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], returned to Abu Dhabi from Muscat this evening after taking part in the meetings of the 10th summit of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Supreme Council held in Muscat from 18-21 December. He was received upon arrival by the members of the UAE Supreme Council and a number of senior officials.

World Condemnation of Panama Intervention Urged

JN2212101689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Dec (INA)—Iraqi papers published here today urge the world community to strongly and clearly denounce and condemn the U.S. intervention in Panama, out of concern for the sovereignty of individual states and respect for the people's choices and will.

In a commentary on the second page, AL-JUMHURIYAH says this intervention is a flagrant aggression against the sovereignty of an independent state and member of the world community, and is in clear violation of international laws and norms.

The paper explains this intervention is dangerous because it was carried out by a superpower—one that considers itself a protector of laws and norms and that hosts, on its own territory, institutions charged with applying them in international life.

AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses: When a superpower and major country violates one of the clauses of international law and commits a reckless act through the use of force, it excuses to other states—small and big—to commit the same kind of violation. The superpowers thus are helping spread the law of the jungle in international life.

Concluding its commentary, the paper stresses: The climate of detente never should mean allowing this or that state to do what it wants according to the whim of the powers that rule it, because this would take the world back many centuries.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH stresses that the U.S. invasion of Panama is an unethical operation to be condemned and rejected, and that world public opinion must denounce it as a clear violation of international law.

In a commentary published today, the newspaper says: Panama is an independent state and a member of the United Nations. The Panamanian people alone have the right to determine their internal affairs, and no other party has the right to make a decision to topple this or that hostile ruler or regime under any excuse or justification.

The newspaper explains that the return to the logic of force and military intervention in the affairs of other states, particularly the small ones, against the will of their peoples, is a serious phenomenon in U.S. policy that calls for concern and condemnation, especially in light of the rapid developments the world is witnessing.

Concluding its commentary, the newspaper asserts: A long time ago, the law of the jungle was eliminated. The invasion of an independent sovereign state is an act rejected and denounced by the entire world community. So what if the invading country is a major power that considers itself responsible for protecting international security and peace?

Columnist Sees U.S.-Syria Scheme in Lebanon

JN2212113889 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Dec 89 p 2

["Viewpoint" column: "America, Hafiz al-Asad, and Lebanon" by Faysal Zaki]

[Text] It is not true the United States has steered clear of the Lebanese quagmire, as claimed by U.S. Administration officials. The truth is the United States is the real godfather of the Lebanese crisis since it began and up to now, going through all the crisis' stages. It is fully, directly, and precisely administering the crisis through two main sides in the region; namely, its agent Hafiz al-Asad and its ally the Zionist entity. At the same time, the United States is applying strong political pressure on all states and parties that call for a permanent and comprehensive solution to the crisis and reject any scheme to partition Lebanon or change the region's geographical or political map.

If we return to the beginnings of the crisis and examine its early stages and various phases, we easily will discover the United States is behind every catastrophe and tragedy that has befallen Lebanon and every plot against it. It gave the green light for the Syrian military invasion in 1976, after setting certain goals for this invasion; namely, confronting the Palestinian and nationalist presence. It encouraged the Zionists to invade southern Lebanon in 1978 and the whole country in 1982. It provided the Zionists with all the necessary support to perpetrate their repeated attacks against the Lebanese territories. It sponsored the Syrian-Zionist cease-fire agreement while the Zionist blockade of Beirut was going on; this is known as the Philip Habib agreement. Through secret diplomatic channels, the United States also sponsored scores of agreements between the Syrian regime and the Zionist enemy since 1982 and up to now. The most famous one is the Murphy-Al-Asad agreement of 1988; before that, there was the agreement of 1985.

Over the past years, the United States has not objected to Iran's military presence in Lebanon, despite Iran's prominent role in kidnappings and international terrorism. It was not moved by Iranian-Syrian cooperation in hashish production and drug smuggling through Lebanon's al-Biqa' region, despite its international campaign against drugs and their promoters. The United States also was not firm toward the spread of armed Lebanese militias, although it always claimed it supported the successive legitimate governments and backed Lebanon's unity, stability, and independence.

But U.S. concern about the Lebanese situation increased remarkably after the extraordinary Casablanca summit, which was devoted to a discussion of the Lebanese crisis. This U.S. concern became direct and from a high level. , This concern, however, did not aim at saving Lebanon from the yoke of foreign occupations, but rather at confronting the Arab plan to fully and comprehensively resolve the crisis. During the tripartite Arab committee's first visit to Washington, the U.S. Administration refused assure it would press Hafiz al-Asad into withdrawing his forces from Lebanon, claiming this would force it to apply similar pressure on the Zionists for the same purpose.

When the tripartite Arab committee issued its first statement on 1 August and held the Syrian regime responsible for hampering the task of salvation, the U.S. Administration marshaled all of its resources to pressure the Arabs and the EEC into emptying the Arab solution of its content and preventing clear decisions on the withdrawal of the Syrian troops.

During the al-Ta'if talks the United States exercised different pressure to make the al-Ta'if agreement ignore mention of the Syrian troops' withdrawal from Lebanon. After the agreement was signed, the United States set up an operation room to direct and follow all developments and positions on Lebanese and Arab arenas in coordination with the Syrian Foreign Ministry. The objective here also was to corner General 'Awn and pressure the Arab and international parties that support his viewpoint, and to give the impression that Gen 'Awn is the main obstacle to the desired solution, not Hafiz al-Asad or the Zionist entity.

In light of this U.S. interest, certain media organs published a map that shows the U.S. concept of the future Lebanon. The map shows the division of spheres of influence between Hafiz al-Asad in the north and east, and the Zionist entity in the south. At the same time another map made up by the Syrian regime's quarters was leaked. This shows the Mediterranean as Syria's western border, and there is no mention of anything called Lebanon on this map. Strangely, these maps surfaced when Syrian officials were openly saying there was never a state called Lebanon or a state called Palestine.

From this serious talk, we deduce the United States and the Syrian regime reached an understanding many years ago on the scheme to divide Lebanon and fragment the region. All their open and secret actions fall in one direction: to rearrange the geographic and political map in a manner that will, first, guarantee U.S. interests and, second, the Zionist entity's objectives and schemes.

This fact—with all its details and episodes—was not known to many Arab and international official quarters. But it now enters the stage of implementation on the ground, in contrast with what is said about the U.S. and Al-Asad's concern for the unity, sovereignty, and independence of that Arab country.

We therefore say Arabs must not hide their heads in the sand to justify their failure to know about the criminal scheme. The responsibility to face the U.S.-Zionist-Al-Asad-Iranian alliance falls on the Arab nation, masses and governments. Arab Lebanon desperately needs its cause to be handled honestly, courageously, comprehensively, and clearly.

Foreign Ministry Source on POW Swap With Iran

JN2112205389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Dec (INA)—Iraq has reiterated its firm, principled stance of undertaking a complete swap of all prisoners of war [POW's] with Iran, regardless of the results of ongoing negotiations between the two countries. This came in a statement to INA by an official Foreign Ministry source, who commented on official talks that concluded 18 December between Iraqi officials and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The talks sought to find a comprehensive solution to the issue of POW's between Iraq and Iran.

The official source said Iraq affirmed to Kinadinger, assistant to the ICRC president, the need for a comprehensive exchange of prisoners, including the sick and wounded, according to provisions of Article 118 of the Geneva Convention of 1949 on POW's. The official source added the swap of the sick and wounded must be conducted according to a written agreement between Iraq and Iran under ICRC supervision and followup.

The Foreign Ministry source said Iraq charged the assistant ICRC president with urging Iran to allow ICRC officials to visit Iraqi prisoners in Iran to determine their condition and register those who need to be, like Iranian prisoners in Iraq, who are receiving humanitarian treatment.

'Aziz Warns Europeans on 'Openness' With Iran

JN2112174789 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Paris, 21 Dec (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed Iraq's intentions remain aimed at achieving a comprehensive and final peace with Iran, while Tehran, on the contrary, until now has not expressed similar intentions and desire. In a statement broadcast at noon by the Fifth Channel at French Television, 'Aziz added all rounds of negotiations between Iraq and the Iranians were not dialogue, but argument.

'Aziz said: We advise our European friends, particularly the French, to not go too far in their openness toward Iran, unless this openness contributes to establishing a permanent peace in the region.

Paper Says Al-Asad Breaches Arabs' Human Rights

JN1312185189 Baghdad INA in English 1505 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad has called on the international public opinion to press the Syrian regime to stop its violations of human rights in Syria and Lebanon.

In a commentary published here today, the paper referred to head of the Syrian regime Hafiz al-Asad's readiness to receive Chairman of the World Zionist

Congress Edgar Bronsmann [name as received] to discuss with him the affair of allowing the Syrian-based Jews to leave for occupied Palestine.

AL-THAWRAH confirmed that Al-Asad had not breached human rights in Syria only but also those of the Palestinian, Lebanese and Iraqi people.

Planning Minister, Saudi Fund Official Confer

JN1312175889 Baghdad INA in English 1515 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec. 13, INA—Minister of Planning Samal Majid Faraj discussed with deputy chairman of Saudi Fund for Development Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Suqayr means of cementing cooperation with Iraqi Fund for Foreign Development.

During the meeting, the minister confirmed Iraq's keenness on the Arab economic coordination and integration and the necessity of cooperation and integration among the Arab development funds in the Arab investment domains.

Iraqi-Yugoslav Economic Committee Begins Meetings

JN1312175489 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 13, INA—The Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Economic, Technical and Scientific Cooperation Committee began here today week-long meetings. High on the committee meeting agenda are the expansion of commodities exchange and technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries.

Further on YAR, PDRY Unity Ministers' Visit

Meet With Saddam

JN1312201489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn this evening received Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state for union affairs in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

During the meeting, they conveyed two oral messages to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn from his brothers YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas. The messages contained congratulations to the president on the great scientific accomplishment represented by the successful test launch of the al-'Abid satellite-carrier rocket system. The ministers also briefed the president on the unionist steps and measures taken by the YAR and PDRY at the Aden summit.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister, and the YAR and PDRY ambassadors in Baghdad.

Hold Talks With Jasim

JN1312132589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Dec (INA)—Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister and acting foreign minister, met here today with Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for affairs of Yemeni unity in the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR], and Rashid Muhammad Thabit, minister of state union affairs in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY].

The two ministers briefed Jasim on unionist steps taken between the YAR and PDRY and the resolutions adopted on 30 November in Aden regarding this.

The ministers arrived in Baghdad last night on a tour of Arab Cooperation Council capitals to acquaint their officials with steps taken to reunify the two parts of Yemen.

PDRY President Congratulates Saddam on Rocket

JN1312044489 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Dec 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received a telephone call from his brother President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. The latter congratulated him on the great scientific feat represented by the launching of the satellite-carrier rocket system al-'Abid and the Tammuz-1 missile.

Leader President Saddam Husayn expressed his gratitude and appreciation to his brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas and the fraternal PDRY people for their sincere brotherly feelings toward Iraq and its scientific development, which serves the Arab nation.

Industrial Cooperation Talks Begin With Romania

JN0912164189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT 9 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Dec (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the Socialist Republic of Romania began here today to promote industrial cooperation between the two countries. The Iraqi side of the talks was led by the minister of industry and military industrialization and the Romanian side by Machine Building Industry Minister Eugen Radulescu.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed areas of bilateral cooperation and national development plans in Iraq. They also agreed to set up technical committees to work out details of the new phase of Iraqi-Romanian industrial cooperation. The Romanian delegation arrived in Baghdad last night on a 3-day visit.

French Air, Space Industry Head Meets Saddam

JN0512212689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1759 GMT 5 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Mr Jaques Mitterrand, president of the French Air and Space Industry Group. The meeting took place in the Governorate of Dahuk.

Talks With Transport Minister

JN0212212689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 2 Dec 89

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Dec (INA)—Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications, today received Jacques Mitterrand, chairman of the French Aerospace Industries, and the delegation accompanying him.

During the meeting, attended by the French ambassador in Baghdad, they discussed prospects for bilateral cooperation in the air and commercial transportation, civil aviation, railroads, and marine activities fields, and ways to develop it. [Baghdad INA in English at 1250 GMT on 2 December reports that Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, also held a meeting with Jacques Mitterrand, during which "bilateral relations and means of cementing them were reviewed."]

Minister Hamzah also met with the chief of Exon, the Swedish communication firm.

During the meeting they discussed ties of cooperation in telephone communications and networks, postal activities, and the manufacture of telephone switchboards and underground cables for telephone networks.

Foreign Ministry 'Restraint' on Panama, Romania

TA2212095489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 89 p A1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has decided to respond with restraint and moderation to events in Romania and Panama out of concern for Israeli and Jewish interests in those countries. Foreign Ministry heads held marathon discussions yesterday on the latest developments in Bucharest and Panama City, while receiving ongoing reports from both capitals. The Foreign Ministry yesterday opened a special telephone line for Israelis wanting to find out what is happening to their relatives in Romania, but the line to Bucharest was cut in the afternoon.

Jerusalem fears that if it joins the growing international criticism of Ceausescu, he will harm those Jews still living in Romania, as well as the route used by Soviet Jews traveling to Israel via Bucharest, if he manages to survive the unrest. On the one hand, Jerusalem is aware of the anger expressed around the world against the cruel, repressive steps the Romanian ruler is taking and is looking for ways to express concern without voicing direct criticism of Ceausescu. On the other hand, Israel is taking into account the possibility that Ceausescu will be removed from power by the masses, which might lead the new regime to hold against Israel the restraint it has shown over the acts of cruelty performed by the old regime.

Jerusalem is also looking for the golden mean in its reaction to events in Panama. The United States expects its allies, including Israel, to support its action, but the politicians and experts in Israel are trying not to burn the bridges with Noriega in view of past experience, which shows that the Panamanian leader has managed to survive despite all the attempts to get rid of him. As long as the new Panamanian Government's control of the situation is unclear, Jerusalem is being careful about expressing support for Noriega's ouster, especially in view of Israel's wide-ranging ties with him. There is, however, concern that the lack of Israeli public support for the change in regime will be held against the Israelis and Jews still in Panama if and when the new U.S.-backed government establishes itself.

Further Reaction to U.S. Operation in Panama

Foreign Minister Arens Comments

TA2112190489 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by Shlomo Ganor and Eli Nisan on 21 December—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Ganor] What is the Israeli position regarding the U.S. operation in Panama?

[Arens] We are a democratic country, the only democracy in the Middle East, although we hope other democratic countries will join us. We are witnessing the first signs to this effect: Notwithstanding the fact that the population was not very pleased with the results, elections have been held in Jordan, which I think is a new thing for an Arab country.

Therefore, it is only natural that we should support democracy and democratic countries throughout the world. Naturally, we tend to support the leader of the democratic countries, which is the United States. We were not thrilled by the elections held in Panama. When the issue of the elections we will hold in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip comes up and people voice doubts as to whether they will be democratic, I frequently tell them: Israel is not Panama, and Yitzhaq Shamir is not Noriega. We will hold proper elections; we have a long-standing democratic tradition. I hope that democracy will prevail in Panama too.

[Nisan] Nevertheless, we have just witnessed a U.S. invasion. Does this not arouse second thoughts about current U.S. behavior? This issue gives rise to many questions.

[Arens] The United States is the leader of the democratic world, and it has a great deal of responsibility. I do not think we would have liked it very much had the United States stood idly by in the face of nondemocracy or the repression of democracy in countries geographically close to the United States in particular. We expect the United States to show similar understanding toward us.

We are the only democracy in the Middle East. A great deal of our problems and of the Israeli-Arab conflict stems from the fact that most Arab countries are not ruled by democratic regimes. Therefore, they do not share the same appreciation of values such as tolerance, individual freedom, democracy, and peace, as democratic countries do. Nevertheless, in the Middle East, too, there is no need for military operations; I do not support military operations in the Middle East at all. I hope democracy will come to the Middle East naturally, because the population wants it, as is currently the case in Eastern Europe. [passage omitted]

Press Reaction Cited

TA2112123889

[Editorial Report] All Israeli newspapers on 21 December carry reports, editorials and commentaries on the U.S. operation in Panama, analyzing the impact of the move on Latin America, the USSR, and Europe in general.

All the commentaries, with the exception of YEDI'OT AHARONOT, take a negative view of the operation. Several make a critical comparison between the U.S. use of force in solving a political problem and the Soviet restraint in facing unrest in the Eastern bloc and in its republics, stressing the negative impact of the U.S. move on the USSR.

In a commentary entitled "Bush Exploits the Soviet Weakness" on page 2 of HADASHOT, Meron Rappaport says that "the news of the advent of a new era seems to have escaped President Bush," whose administration "has invaded a neighboring country in accordance with its deplorable doctrine of the 1950's and 1960's." The commentator sees the peril of the U.S. operation in the "very damage to the principle of sovereignty, at a time when the world is marching toward a comprehensive peace and when democracy is beginning to penetrate into Latin America." Bush is seen "cynically exploiting the Soviet weakness to run wild in Panama," thereby engendering an attitude of "mistrust on the part of the Soviet Union" at a time when the latter "particularly needs that trust."

Writing on page 1 of HA'ARETZ in a commentary entitled "No Reason To Admire the U.S. Policing Operation in Panama," Ze'ev Schiff states that the reasons for the "use of military power by a large superpower against its tiny neighbor" would be seen invalid by Washington had other countries offered them an explanation of a similar move. Schiff deplores "Washington's excessive tendency to resort to military force," which seems particularly striking in view of "the enormous restraint exercised by the Soviet Union in the face of the collapse of its empire."

'AL HAMISHMAR, in a commentary called "A Dangerous Gamble" by Tzvi Goren on pages 1 and 4, sees the U.S. operation in Panama as "an attempt to gamble away a whole series of world political processes, in addition to jeopardizing American lives." "Acting as a potentate out of the Middle Ages," President Bush "has put his country back in the old imperialist status and in the role of the world's policeman. Other Latin American countries, which are seeking a balance between themselves and the United States, will be the ones to bear the brunt of the invasion. It is to be expected that, to a certain extent, the move will have a negative impact on Europe, including Gorbachev's status in his country."

A different angle is presented by HA'ARETZ commentator 'Aqiva Eldar who, in a commentary entitled "An Open License To Kidnap" on page 13, drives a parallel between the attempted seizure of Noriega by the United States and the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd by Israel. Granting that "free America could not overlook despot Noriega's exploits for long," Eldar concludes by saying: "Unfortunately, he is not a unique personality in his region. Has Bush given the world an unlimited license to kidnap as a Christmas present?"

YEDI'OT AHARONOT, in its editorial entitled "A War in Panama" on page 2, states: "Israel, despite its small size, sides with the United States on the issue of Panama—and not only because it is an ally and a benefactor. We believe in a country's right to defend itself and its citizens even beyond its borders. As far as we are concerned, what the United States is doing in Panama is self defense." The editorial concludes: "We hope, however, that the United States will apply similar zealousness to other countries' right for self defense, even when the act of self defense has to be carried out outside those countries' borders."

Rubinstein, Others Comment on Talks in U.S.

Held in 'Positive Atmosphere'

TA2112175189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein today reported to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on his talks in the United States.

Speaking to our political correspondent Arye Golan, Rubinstein said that the talks were held in a positive atmosphere, and that they will continue. Rubinstein will report later this evening to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and tomorrow to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Gaps 'Wide, If Not Unbridgeable'

TA2212102689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 89 p 18

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein achieved slight progress in his talks in Washington this week, but the gaps between Israel and the U.S. remain wide, if not unbridgeable, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Other sources, however, said that State Department officials were under the impression that Rubinstein had indicated surprising flexibility on the matter of the inclusion of deportees in the Palestinian delegation and on the matter of the agenda.

These sources cited Rubinstein as saying in Washington that under certain conditions and with certain formulations, Prime Minister Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens could be persuaded to support the inclusion of deportees in the delegation.

Rubinstein and his U.S. interlocutors made progress in connection with the "second assumption" attached to the inner cabinet's November 5 acceptance of Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan, by which Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. The U.S. is apparently willing to acknowledge publicly this Israeli position.

[In a similar report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer on page 1, YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 22 December adds: "The United States has given Israel a commitment that it will not lend its hand to an arrangement that would aim at allowing the PLO in through the back door to join the talks with Israel." This is included in a document submitted to Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein during his Washington talks.

The document given to Rubinstein also says that "the United States is making a commitment that the discussions between Israel and the Palestinian delegation in Cairo will focus on the issue of elections, although the delegations will be allowed to present any stand they choose."]

The gaps remain wide, however, concerning Israel's demand that the agenda of the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue be devoted only to the elections in the territories, and are even wider concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

The Americans made it clear to Rubinstein, the sources said, that a formula would have to be found to accommodate the Palestinian demand that outside Palestinians, as well as East Jerusalem residents be allowed to participate in the delegation.

More talks are to be held in the near future, although Rubinstein yesterday denied that any U.S. emissaries are expected to arrive here soon.

Sources in Jerusalem said that U.S. differences with the Arab side also remain wide, with the PLO refusing to give up its demand that it be publicly acknowledged as the appointer of the Palestinian delegation.

Rabin Says PLO 'Scared to Death' by Elections

TA2112175389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres supports the continued existence of the national unity government. He stressed, however, that if there is no other way, his party would quit the government. He was speaking at a political debate held by the Labor Party Bureau.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said at the discussion that the PLO is scared to death by the elections in the territories. According to him, the organization is attempting to foil the elections, which is the reason for the arguments over the composition of the Palestinian delegation and the agenda of the talks.

Knesset Member 'Uzi Bar'am, on the other hand, believes that it is the Likud that is searching for all possible ways to avoid elections in the territories.

Apparent Shift in Syrian Media Policy Seen

JN1812184989 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1443 GMT 18 Dec 89

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, the guided Syrian media create the strong impression that the Damacus rulers' antagonism to General Michel 'Awn is ever heightening. So are the feelings of hostility and hatred that Syria's al-Asad harbors toward the Iraqi regime, especially toward Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. We, of course, are neither defending General 'Awn nor asssuming the role of defense lawyer for the Iraqi president and his regime. We are discussing this subject because the Damascus rulers, through their media, deliberately implicate Israel in their disagreements with and antagonism to General 'Awn and the Iraqi president.

The Syrian media's implication of Israel in this matter is always accompanied by the promotion of all sorts of mean slander against Israel and the leveling of all sorts of imaginary and false accusations against it. It might be a coincidence or an exception that a political commentary broadcast by Damascus radio at noon last Saturday and an editorial published yesterday by the Damascus-based newspaper TISHRIN discussing the Lebanese problem attacked General Michel 'Awn as usual but totally avoided bringing Israel's name into the subject.

We hope that this positive phenomenon in the Syrian media is not merely a coincidence or an exception, but rather an indication that the masters of the Syrian media have adopted a new policy based on their realization that it is no longer logical to address Arab masses in the late eighties using the same cheap and ridiculous demagogic methods used by all Arab media men over the past decades. It is perhaps tragic that although more than 40 years have passed since the Arab-Israeli conflict started, and despite all developments in the Middle East and in Arab thinking and positions over the past 4 decades, some Arab media men still try to implicate Israel in Arab-Arab differences. We will not depart from the truth if we say that the phenomenon of implicating Israel in Arab-Arab differences stems from a ridiculous worn-out mentality. At the same time, it implies disdain for the intelligence of Arab peoples and ridicules their minds.

Egyptians Asked To Promote 'Positive Approach'

TA2212062689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has asked the Egyptians to encourage Arab foreign ministers at the Euro-Arab conference in Paris to demonstrate a positive approach to the peace process. The message was delivered verbally to Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Majid by Israel's ambassador in Paris, 'Ovadya Sofer.

ECONOMIST Report on 'Arafat Message Denied

TA2212102089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Dec 89 p A1

[Report by Sha'ul Tzadqa in Britain and diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpts] London—The news section of the British weekly THE ECONOMIST reported that 3 weeks ago taqt Shim'on Peres sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat via Dr Ahmad Taybi, a Palestinian living in the West Bank, calling on him to accept the Baker plan. [passage omitted]

Our diplomatic correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar adds: Shim'on Peres, the vice prime minister and finance minister, told HA'ARETZ that he saw Dr Taybi "once in my life," and added: "I did not send anybody and I am surprised by the fabricated report." Dr Taybi claims: "It is a journalist's plant. If only it were true. I am prepared to do anything for the sake of peace, which every Palestinian yearns for. Somebody is using my name to try to hurt Shim'on Peres, and I can only regret that."

Further Reportage on Violence in Territories

Arab Teenager Killed in West Bank

TA2112114389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The body of a 17-year-old youth was brought at noon to al-Ittihad Hospital in Nabulus after being shot in the head. Those who brought the body to the hospital said that he was killed during an Army operation. Masked people snatched his body away.

A casualty from the village of Bayt Furik was also brought to the hospital. He was said to have sustained medium wounds. Residents told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today imposed a curfew on Bayt Furik. The IDF is investigating the reports about the fatality and the casualty.

In Gaza, there were attempts today to bring about a commercial strike in memory of a prisoner who died Tuesday night in the town jail. Gazans reported that four youths were wounded this morning during the dispersal of stone throwers.

2 More Killed in Bayt Furik

TA2112162289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Two residents of the village of Bayt Furik in the Nabulus area were killed during an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation there. Army sources reported that youths threw rocks and cinder blocks at the soldiers, wounding an officer in the face. The soldiers fired several plastic bullets at the stone throwers.

Nabulus hospitals later reported that two men were killed and one wounded. Residents of the area said that four more people were wounded in Bayt Furik. The IDF is investigating these reports.

IDF Operation Kills 2, Wounds 7

TA2212103489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] A woman and a youth were killed this morning in the course of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation in the Janin District village of Jaba'. According to Army sources, preliminary findings showed that when an IDF unit entered one of the homes in the village where a wanted man lived, a woman attacked an officer with a knife, wounding him. The officer shot the woman, killing her. The officer was taken to Ha'emeq Hospital in 'Afula. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that another wanted person who resisted arrest was also shot and taken to the hospital.

As the Army operation in the village continued, residents hurled stones and blocks at soldiers, who responded by firing tear gas canisters and rubber and plastic bullets. Later, a hospital in the Janin area reported receiving seven wounded and a 15-year-old youth who had been killed.

A senior officer is investigating the events in the village of Jaba'.

23 Wounded in Gaza Clashes 21 Dec

TA2212101689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Dec 89 pp 1, 13

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops in the West Bank yesterday shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded at least five in fierce clashes during a raid on Bayt Furik near Nabulus. Twenty-three persons were also reported injured in Gaza clashes.

In Bayt Sahur, townspeople reported that dozens of their identification cards had been torn up by soldiers in recent days. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is checking the complaint, which had been transmitted to the Bethlehem military governor. [passage omitted]

In other incidents, an Israeli motorist was wounded in the face and eyes by glass fragments when his car was hit by stones in Hebron. In al-Birah, a 35-year-old man accused of cooperating with Israel was stabbed near the municipality building and taken to hospital in Israel. [passage omitted]

During Gaza Strip clashes, troops shot and wounded 23 Palestinians, including 16 in Rafah, according to the Palestinians. Official military sources reported four wounded in Rafah and three in Gaza. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 22 December reports: "Army sources have said that the Arab woman from the Hebron District village of al-Shuyukh died this week of a heart attack accompanied by pneumonia and not from beatings by soldiers. This was said to our correspondent Arye Gus. The Army sources were citing the findings of a report compiled by the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute."]

AL-DUSTUR: Panama Action 'Serious Precedent'

JN2212080489 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 22 Dec 89 p 16

["The Last Station" column by Munis al-Razzaz: "Against the Spirit of the Age"]

[Text] The U.S. military invasion of Panama comes when the features of the upcoming age have started to take clear, or almost clear, shape.

One important feature of this age is non-interference by any country in the internal affairs of another, especially through military intervention.

If Israel totally refuses to recognize the features of the new age and clings to a mythical mentality out of line with the requirements of the age, then the U.S. invasion of Panama, which was condemned by all the Latin American states, is equally troublesome. It indicates that some positions of power contributing to the U.S. political decisionmaking are neither enthusiastic nor ready to receive the winds of the new age or acknowledge its inevitable features.

No matter how corrupt General Noriega's regime is, the task of toppling it or rectifying its course lies upon the shoulders of the Panamanian people; it is a purely internal affair. The mentality of the tough and noble cowboy who chases "evil" red indians must end with the end of the age that produced it.

The flagrant and direct U.S. intervention in the affairs of another country is a serious precedent that gives racist countries, such as Israel and South Africa, justification and legitimate cover to interfere in the affairs of any other country under some excuse or another.

Israel attacked Tunisia, Iraq, Lebanon, and others under various pretexts. Now we see the state of the "veto" used against Arab resolutions invading a sovereign state, justifying the action with reasons that might be acceptable logically, but practically are absolutely unacceptable. The United States can claim Gen Noriega's regime is corrupt and incite world public opinion against this regime, but direct external military intervention to change a regime, no matter its sins, no longer is acceptable by the standards of the new age. This direct intervention represents a green line allowing all aggressive states to interfere directly in other countries' affairs with all sorts of excuses.

Deputies Discuss Government Policy Statement

JN2112101589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21-22 Dec 89 p 1

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The government's policy statement to Parliament on Tuesday has drawn mixed reactions from deputies and the public, swaying towards positive feelings but intermingled with some doubts and caution. However, it appears a foregone conclusion that the government will secure a vote of confidence on Dec. 30. It will only surprise the public if Prime Minister Mudar Badran does not manage to acquire the approval for his cabinet.

In his programme of action, the premier was able to touch on all major demands made by candidates who sought Lower House seats in the Nov. 8 elections and to satisfy the general tendencies among the deputies.

Even Dr. Ahmad 'Uwaydi al-'Abbadi, a constant critic of the government, agreed that there were many elements in the policy statement "which fit in with the public demands."

But he added his doubts about the sincerity of these pledges. "What if they said them only to get the vote of confidence?" he asked.

Deputy Tahir al-Masri answered this question by pointing out that "the government has already taken practical steps in the direction of democratisation before the reading of the policy statement and we can continue to watch and monitor the moves of the government."

Deputies who have already declared their intention to cast their ballots in favour of the cabinet said they would maintain strict control and watch closely the government's decisions.

A Muslim Brotherhood candidate said: "If we decide to give confidence to the government we will retain our right to investigate the decisions of each minister and bring him in for questioning by the House if we feel that he has deviated from the course pledged in the policy statement."

"I think that the statement satisfies, in general, the aspirations of most deputies and covers the election campaigns of candidates," Al-Masri, an independent, said.

Al-Masri told the JORDAN TIMES it was "clear that if all what was promised was enacted, we would be going ahead into a new stage of our life and the executive and legislative authorities will cooperate together to reach a common goal."

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war agreed that Badran's statement had positive elements, which reflect the public demands of Jordanians, but said that "there are some loopholes."

He said, however, he did not feel that these loopholes constitute an obstacle in the way of giving the cabinet confidence. "These loopholes are excusable," he said. "Parliament has a duty in this field and we will fulfil our duty."

Dhib Anis, al-Zarqa' Muslim Brotherhood deputy, also pointed to the positive elements in the statement but said that the Brotherhood deputies "have not formed an opinion yet...the situation needs a careful study."

According to observers and some deputies who asked to remain anonymous, there are many points of agreement between the cabinet and the legislative authority which were highlighted in Badran's policy statement.

Most important of these points were the decisions to freeze the martial law, crack down on financial and management corruption and to investigate the reasons beind the Kingdom's large debt and prosecute those responsible.

Al-Masri, a former minister, said that reconsidering the mistakes of the past was the "best thing that could happen in Jordan, especially at this time."

He paid particular attention to what he described as "changes in the local and international situation which reflect itself on Parliament, the press and the public at large."

Al-Masri maintained that these changes "are now understood by the government and the extent of cooperation is evident, especially that the prime minister began taking positive steps before the reading of the policy statement."

He pointed out that some past governments, "for purposes of protecting their institutions, used to be domineering in its views and forced it upon the people to ensure the expansion of its authority...this has ended."

Another major point of agreement between Badran's programme and the demands of the Lower House is the government's pledge to reduce the agony and suffering of Palestinians without touching the core of the Kingdom's decision to disengage itself from the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

This pledge in effect meets the demands of deputies to decrease the negative effects of the disengagement decision on the Palestinians and extend proper support for the Palestinian uprising.

The most important of the government's steps, adopted before Badran presented his programme to the House, were the decision to free political detainees and return all confiscated passports as well as giving citizens the freedom to travel and work. The prime minister crowned the moves by reversing a 1988 decision to assume control of newspapers in the Kingdom.

Some deputies saw some "negative" aspects in the policy statement simply because some points were not touched at all.

"The issue of the defence law and exceptionary laws were not touched by Badran," Qa'war, who is also the official spokesman for the 16-member Democratic Bloc, told the JORDAN TIMES.

Qa'war and some other deputies said although "development of education was clearly discussed in the policy statement, there was no mention of a teachers' union."

The absence of a clear mention of allowing political parties to reemerge in the Kingdom surfaced in the deputies' apprehension but most of them understood that this decision would remain in the hands of the factors affecting the drafting of the proposed National Charter and are satisfied with Badran's pledge to call on the deputies' cooperation on this point.

Most deputies agreed that balanced in the scales of reality, the positives far outweigh the negatives in the policy statement.

Some deputies agreed that they were caught by surprise.

"If the session of confidence vote was to be held the day after it was read by the premier, he would have won an almost unanimous vote of confidence," said a deputy who prepared [as published] anonymity.

In the next ten days there will be many discussions among deputies of the different blocs. But indications so far show that Badran and his cabinet will easily find their way back to their offices at the end of the confidence vote session.

Badran on Cooperation with Legislative Authority

JN2112173189 Amman Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mudar Badran, said today the government will work alongside the legislative authority to deal with the Kingdom's problems. He said the Jordanian people's solidarity and their responsibility for sharing the burden is the basic requirement for the success of the country in overcoming its crisis.

The prime minister was speaking at a meeting with dignitaries and tribal chiefs from the southern region and 'Ajlun, who congratulated him on forming the government. They voiced their satisfaction with the government's new orientation toward further democracy and freedom.

Prime Minister Receives Egyptian Minister

JN2112171889 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran this afternoon received in his office Mrs Amal 'Uthman, Egyptian minister of social insurance and social affairs. The Egyptian ambassador in Amman attended.

Mrs 'Uthman conveyed to the prime minister a verbal message from Egyptian Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi. Talks dealt with the fraternal ties between Jordan and Egypt and ways to develop and enhance them in the interest of the peoples of the two fraternal states.

Deputies Work for Release of Political Prisoners

JN1812093089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Dec 89 p 22

[Text] Amman, AL-RA'Y—Deputies Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Faris al-Nabulsi, Mansur Sayf-al-Din Murad, Bassam Haddadin, and Fakhri Qa'war of the House of Representatives' Democratic Group yesterday visited Suwaqah Prison. During their visit the deputies met with a number of political prisoners serving various terms of imprisonment.

The visit aimed at finding out the prisoners' situation and the nature of their sentences so these can be presented to the House of Representatives.

Deputy Fakhri Qa'war, Democratic Group press spokesman, said the political prisoners were happy about measures recently taken by the government, especially in relation to releasing detainees, returning passports, allowing travel and work, abolishing the economic committee's decision on dissolving the newspapers' boards of directors, and abolishing the decision on dissolving the Jordanian Writers' Association.

Deputy Qa'war said the prisoners asserted that releasing political prisoners embodies and is part of the nature of the current democratic phase. They expressed confidence Mudar Badran's government would work hard to issue a special law for their release. Qa'war pointed out the prime minister has told some members of the Democratic Group the government is concerned about the issue of political prisoners and that it will form a special committee to study their situation in order to release them.

There are 65 political prisoners in Siwaqah Prison. Their sentences vary from the death penalty to a 1-year term. The government previously has released 48 detainees who belong to different political factions.

Paper on University's 'Negligence' of Education

JN1712105089 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 17 Dec 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "A Session for the Sake of a United al-Yarmuk"]

[Text] The House of Representatives conducted a 5-hour session in the presence of the prime minister and the ministers during which there was a heated debate over the al-Yarmuk University incidents. The deputies and the prime minister submitted available information on these incidents in a democratic and completely free manner, for which Jordan is envied.

Al-Yarmuk University constitutes one of the pillars of science and culture in this Arab bastion. Through the lengthy deliberations at the House of Representatives, it appeared there was negligence on the part of the university itself in dealing with the issue of national education. This is a very serious phenomenon; it should be immediately heeded.

The name al-Yarmuk goes back 14 centuries to our civilizational role, when the shrewd Islamic leader Khalid Ibn-al-Walid fought the epoch-making battle named al-Yarmuk. The university was given the same name to remain a university of manliness, patriotism, nationalism, and unity. If some weak-willed people have managed to infiltrate the university, the government is capable of uncovering the identities of those elements which transform the university into a time bomb that could threaten Jordan's security and undermine its bases.

Basing our opinion on the debate, we believe other people from outside the university campus have helped plant seeds of sedition, which were buried thanks to the vigilance of the competent authorities in the capital of the north.

We know the issue was exaggerated by hostile media and that the government, which watches over the security of the homeland and the aspirations of the people, knew how to nip this malignant conspiracy in the bud.

We live in Jordan, not in any other part of the world. We are the grandchildren of the soldiers who fought the al-Yarmuk battle in an honorable and manly manner. We will fight this battle again and again if we have to. When attacked, we are not lambs, but lions.

We say this while assured of the impossibility of arousing such sectarian, chauvinistic, and racial seditions. Nevertheless, hostile circles that want to humiliate us, force us to rubber-stamp documents, and be content with the state of humiliation and degradation seem not to realize, despite the failure of all their previous conspiracies, that we are a solid rock that will wreck all conspiracies and that we are capable of causing their malice to backfire.

Jordan, which has launched its democratic march in a professional manner, will not be stopped by maniacs, hirelings or people of shaky conviction. Our united people will discard from among their ranks all those whose rotten thoughts induce them to believe the Jordanian bastion will crumble under their feeble strikes.

We thank the deputies, the prime minister, and the ministers who dealt with the al-Yarmuk incidents in this honorable manner. By following this approach, we can deepen ties of understanding between the sons of the one homeland and the one family.

Al-Huss Interviewed on 'Awn, Syrian Presence

JN2112195089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1725 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Salim al-Huss by George Qurdahi in Paris on 21 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Qurdahi] Mr Prime Minister, this is your first trip abroad since your assumption of office. You are here to participate in the Euro-Arab dialogue conference. My first question is: What will you present to the conference and what are you expecting of it?

[Al-Huss] Of course we will present Lebanon's views on its current conditions. We represent the legitimacy of one Lebanon and speak in the name of the legitimate Lebanese authority. Facing as it is a threat of partition led by the former commander of the Lebanese Army, threatening Lebanon's unity and existence, it is natural for us to put forth our problem and demand that our brothers and friends who participate in the Euro-Arab dialogue conference render effective support for the Lebanese legitimacy in order to bypass this obstacle. [passage omitted]

[Qurdahi] Is there any French mediation plan to solve the Lebanese problem?

[Al-Huss] No, there is no such mediation plan and I do not believe that mediation is needed at this stage.

[Qurdahi] In this case, Mr Prime Minister, what is General 'Awn required to do?

[Al-Huss] Quit.

[Qurdahi] Simply quit?

[Al-Huss] Because he is now an outlaw, a rebel against legitimacy.

[Qurdahi] Are there any talks, through a third party, between you and General 'Awn to find a way out of this crisis?

[Al-Huss] There are no talks in that sense, but the situation is very clear. The brotherly and friendly states are required to exercise pressure on those who should be pressed to end this situation.

[Qurdahi] Mr Prime Minister, General 'Awn sets a condition for every solution. He says Syria should agree to a timetable for withdrawing from Lebanon. Why is it difficult to meet this condition? Is it because it is set by 'Awn or is it because Syria does not intend to withdraw?

[Al-Huss] The Syrian military presence in Lebanon has a historical background which everyone knows. The Syrian Arab forces entered Lebanon by a decision of the Lebanese legitimacy in 1976 represented by the then-president of the Republic. It was also decided by an Arab summit in Cairo in the presence of the Lebanese president. The background of the Syrian forces' presence in Lebanon is well-known but the background of its withdrawal is not known.

[Qurdahi] Why is it that the background of its withdrawal is not known?

[Al-Huss] The presence of the Lebanese forces in Lebanon will be considered a violation of Lebanese sovereignty if it contradicts the will of the Lebanese Government. National sovereignty is exercised by the legitimate Lebanese Government. What the legitimate government approves is in harmony with the sovereignty, and what the legitimate authority, represented by the government, does not approve is regarded as a violation of the legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Qurdahi] Is the military option against General 'Awn still valid?

[Al-Huss] I believe I have expressed the stand of Lebanese legitimacy on many occasions by saying that the legitimacy possesses many peaceful weapons to fight this destructive, divisionist phenomenon. We are trying to develop these capabilities. I believe that we possess very sharp peaceful weapons to fight this phenomenon. [passage omitted]

Calls on 'Awn 'To Step Down'

NC2112192489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] In an interview with Radio Monte Carlo today, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss called on General Michel 'Awn to step down, put an end to the state of partition he embodies, and give way to legitimacy to pursue the reconciliation process.

Al-Huss ruled out decisive military action against General 'Awn, asserting that the legitimate authorities have peaceful means capable of resolving this situation.

Al-Huss Comments on Talks With France's Rocard

NC2112190989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpt] The Arabic-language al-Mashriq radio in Paris this afternoon carried an interview with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss.

In this interview, Al-Huss expressed satisfaction with his talks last night with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, saying the talks were good and extremely positive. He added: I heard from him firm and undisputable words about the French Government's support for the legitimate Lebanese authorities and all their efforts to establish legitimacy over all Lebanese territories.

He noted France supports the implementation of all UN resolutions regarding Lebanon, particularly Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the south.

He said French backing for the national reconciliation government was manifest in the French Government's instructions to its ambassador in Lebanon to present his credentials to President Ilyas al-Hirawi in his presence in person. He added this was an expression of French support for the legitimate authorities in Lebanon. [Passage omitted]

'Awn Speaks to Delegations on Army, Patriotism

NC2112141389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 21 Dec GMT 89

[Text] General Michel 'Awn today received delegations representing the war veterans league, the federal grand lodge in Lebanon, the Sacre Coeur society, the Honor Thy Father committee, and several student organizations.

Addressing the delegations, Gen 'Awn said: When we succeeded in rebuilding the army as a mixed army—as which it continues—to create a Lebanese power that is uninvolved in regional or international alliances, all domestic powers joined forces in the latest political solution against the army in an effort to restore the conditions prevailing in 1975 and 1976. Gen 'Awn added there always has been cohesion between the army and the people. In addition, the spirit of patriotism has become so powerful that the major powers are trying to break this spirit or give the impression of a collision. All this will not affect the army, he added.

Gen 'Awn then chaired a cabinet meeting, part of which was attended by [former Foreign Ministry secretary general] Faruq Abu-al-Lam'.

Sa'adah Asks Syria 'To Expedite' Withdrawal

NC2112133389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Phalangist Party leader Dr George Sa'adah today called on Syria to expedite its withdrawal from some Lebanese territories in a bid to dispel fears harbored by various Lebanese factions.

In an interview with a correspondent of the Egyptian paper AL-AHRAM, Sa'adah said the withdrawal of the Syrian Army from Lebanon has become the preoccupation of the Lebanese people, although the al-Ta'if agreement set a timetable for withdrawal. Dr Sa'adah added: If Syria wants to help us, it must expedite its withdrawal from some Lebanese territories. Some Lebanese who now are demonstrating around B'abda Palace are doing so because they fear Syria might not honor what we agreed on in al-Ta'if.

Dr Sa'adah added no agreement between Lebanon and Syria could lead to positive results unless preparations now are made in a positive atmosphere. Therefore, he added, Syria is required to take the initiative in dispelling fears of various Lebanese factions. In addition, Dr Sa'adah stressed he considers President al-Hirawi to be the head of the legitimate authority in Lebanon and the government led by Dr Salim al-Huss to be the legitimate one.

Gen Lahhud Receives New Soviet Military Attache

NC2112160389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud today in Riyaq received the new Soviet military attache in Lebanon, Colonel (Viktor Tropez). They discussed a number of joint military issues.

Gen Lahhud will receive the other foreign military attaches in Riyaq tomorrow.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Ja'ja', Makes Statement

NC2112111089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' met with Soviet Ambassador Vasiliy Kolotusha today. The meeting, which began at the Lebanese Forces command headquarters at 1030, ended a short while ago.

Asked what solution the Soviet Union envisages for the current situation in Lebanon, Ambassador Kolotusha said: A solution, in my view, lies in dealing objectively with the al-Ta'if agreement, which was reached among the deputies. This, in our estimation, is the common denominator among the various political forces and sects in Lebanon. It is a document containing what can be agreed upon among the Lebanese in the present circumstances.

He was asked: The agreement has led to a crisis. How is the Soviet Union tackling this crisis on the international, Arab, and Lebanese levels?

Kolotusha said: We are trying to assist in dealing with this difficult situation through political and diplomatic activity and through persuading the Lebanese parties to approach this agreement positively.

He was asked: Were any specific proposals agreed upon between Gorbachev and Bush and between Mitterrand and his holiness the pope to find solutions to this crisis?

Kolotusha stated: I think that things are clear. There is a new legitimacy stemming from the al-Ta'if agreement. I think that the safest way is to deal positively with the new legitimacy. International contacts on the Lebanese issue pursue this course. This is the position of the Soviet Union. I believe that this is also the American, French, and Vatican positions.

Minister al-Khalil Briefs President on Gulf Tour

NC2112133989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today in Ablah received Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil, his envoy to the Gulf.

Al-Khalil briefed the president on his meetings with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] leaders, who received President al-Hirawi's message on the latest Lebanese developments.

Minister al-Khalil returned from Muscat today after conveying a message from the president to the GCC leaders.

Shams al-Din, Birri Leave for Damascus 21 Dec

NC2112123289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, left for Damascus today to talk with Syrian officials on the current situation in Lebanon.

Minister Nabih Birri, Amal Movement leader, earlier also left for the Syrian capital for talks on developments in Lebanon.

Shaykh Shams al-Din's visit to Damascus came after he conducted meetings with delegations from the south. The delegations complained about the conditions in Iqlim al-Tuffah. There is anxiety in the Iqlim al-Tuffah area resulting from existing concentrations there. A general strike was observed in the southern villages and towns today to protest these conditions.

Shaykh Shams al-Din this morning received a large popular delegation from villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The delegation briefed him on the existing situation in the area and appealed to his eminence to intervene and end the strife there. It also called for restoring normal life and returning the people to their villages.

Mufti Urges Southerners To Unite, End 'Sedition'

NC2112143289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Grand Ja'farite Mufti His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan has appealed to the steadfast southerners to unite against the Israeli enemy and its agents.

Mufti Qabalan appealed to inhabitants of Iqlim al-Tuffah in particular to close any loophole that may lead to sedition and infighting among the same people.

Tyre meanwhile closed down today in response to the Amal Movement's call for a protest against the climate of sedition that originates from the Iqlim al-Tuffah area through the military concentrations brought into the area.

Tyre citizens, as well as delegations from al-Nabatiyah and nearby villages, marched through Tyre's streets. They chanted slogans calling for ending the sedition, preserving the south's independent decision, and refusing to allow the south issue to become a matter for foreign bargaining.

Fadlallah Urges End to Amal-Hizballah Conflict

NC2212080589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has continued his efforts to end the strife between the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He met various leaders for this purpose, stressing the need to find a speedy solution to all problems and end the tense, emotionally-charged atmosphere. He also called for peace and detente in relations between the two sides and said the bullets should be directed at the common Zionist enemy. His eminence appealed to everyone to act quickly in closing ranks at this serious juncture.

His Eminence 'Allamah Fadlallah also met with His Eminence Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, Hizballah secretary general; a delegation of the Jabal 'Amil 'ulema committee; and a delegation from the villages of Mashgharah, Suhmur, Yuhmur, and Libbaya in western al-Biqa'. They briefed him on the area's situation and the need for serious action to bring about understanding between Amal and Hizballah. 'Allamah Fadlallah stressed the need for solidarity and unity in the face of the Zionist entity.

Al-Musawi on Dangers of Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC2212084689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Brother Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi [leader of the Islamic Amal Movement] has affirmed the conflict that occurred between Hizballah and the Amal Movement has and continues to constitute a real danger to our existence and future. Speaking at a symposium conducted last night in Ba'labakk by the Islamic Amal Movement, Brother Sayyid al-Musawi said the Islamic Republic and Syria maintain a firm position, rejecting fighting between Hizballah and the Amal Movement. He said: We and our brothers everywhere must do something. We must not wait and watch what is happening. Our brothers and sons are eager to sacrifice their blood in the struggle against the Zionist enemy and its agents, not in a conflict among Muslims. If the fighting resumes, it will expose the oppressed, their rights, and their resistance to danger.

Amal Imposes Curfew in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC2112133689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 89

[text] The Amal Movement has imposed a curfew in the Iqlim al-Tuffah villages starting at 1730 every day. According to reports from the south, Amal is carrying out searches in the area. Amal moreover has set up checkpoints inside the villages and laid ambushes in the valleys surrounding the al-Zahrani area.

Militia Group Storms Town, Kills 3 in South

NC2012175389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] According to reports from the south, a group of the border militia stormed 'Aytarun town in Bint Jubayl before noon today and rounded up its inhabitants in the town's square. The group summoned citizen Husayn [second name indistinct], accused him of liquidating agent 'Ali Qasim, and shot him before the public.

A short while later, the deceased's two brothers were found dead on the road to nearby Marun al-Ra's.

In another development at 0300 today, a joint Israeli-Lahdist force, composed of eight vehicles, penetrated 2 kms into [word indistinct] in western al-Biqa' and as far as [place indistinct] hills, overlooking Qilya and al-Dallafah farm. The force carried out a large-scale 2-hour search in the area, during which it discovered anti-armor mines. Zionist experts detonated and defused them.

The Israeli tanks on al-Ahmadiyah hill at dawn today shelled [placename indistinct], Abu Rashif, and the western al-Biqa' fringes. The bombardment coincided with flares fired from the agent militia's position in Taw'mat Niha. The shelling caused only property damage.

Retaliation Moves Detailed

NC2112203889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 21 Dec GMT 89

[Text] The operations room in the steadfast south has issued the following statement: In retaliation for the brutal massacre committed by the Zionist forces and their agents in 'Aytarun—in which the brothers Husayn, 'Ali, and Khalil al-Sayyid Hasan were assassinated—a group from the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal at 0800 today attacked a Lahdist agents' position in al-Qantarah. The attack, in which machineguns and rockets were used, caused many casualties among those manning the post. The enemy responded with a violent artillery bombardment against Tulin and Qabrikha. The members of the group safely returned.

The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in the area affirmed enemy artillery shelled the old part of al-Qantarah at 0830 today, destroying a great number of houses. The enemy artillery then shelled Tulin's main square, damaging three houses, as well as the towns of Qabrikha and Majdal Silm.

A UN Interim Forces in Lebanon source has disclosed a Finnish contingent post in the shelled area received several direct hits from mortar shells.

Regarding the 'Aytaruyn massacre, a responsible source in the south operations room said today: As usual, the Zionists and their agents committed an abominable massacre against our patient kinfolk in Jabal 'Amil in 'Aytarun. They assassinated Husayn al-Sayyid Hasan, whose body was burned and thrown into a deserted well, and his brothers 'Ali and Khalil in the wake of the Lebanese Resistance Battalions-Amal's liquidation of Zionist agent 'Ali Husayn Qasim, the security official in Bint Jubayl area.

We in the Amal Movement condemn this hideous crime by the Zionists and their enemies [as heard], such as Abu-Durgham, Farid Sawdah, and similar agents. We warn the agents in the area, who agreed to protect the Zionist enemy and settlers, they will be punished severely and share the fate of the aforementioned agent and his masters. The Amal Movement is lying in wait; it may delay punishment, but it will not forget.

Two Rockets Fired at Beirut Combat Line

NC2112182289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Two rockets were fired in the direction of Ra's-al-Nab'-al-Sodeco combat line at approximately 1600 today. They were followed by machinegun fire.

Media Continue Comment on Need To Remove 'Awn

Compared With U.S. Panama Move

JN2112165289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] 'Awn continues to close down schools in the eastern area [of Beirut] in total disregard of the future of the younger generation. He forces students to gather in front of B'abda Palace so he can play them the daily tune of his quixotic, heroic deeds. Any observer of the insurgent general's speeches will realize how contradictory his arguments are. Sometimes he claims to represent the entire Lebanese territory, sometime he poses as a representative of the Christian sector. In fact, he represents neither this nor that. The Lebanese people—both Muslims and Christians—have known only disaster and catastrophe under his dictatorship. In the name of so-called liberation, 'Awn hurled thousands of tons of bombs against residential areas and economic facilities, killing, destroying and displacing many people. When the Lebanese were given a chance to rise out of their bitter situation, treat the wounds of war, and realize reconciliation among themselves on firm grounds of equality, justice, and equal opportunities, the insurgent general declared war against reconciliation and accord and cut for himself a piece of Beirut and turned the people into a barricade to protect himself in the cellars of B'abda Palace.

It is worth noting 'Awn thinks the Lebanese will end up recognizing him and approving of his instincts and ambitions. 'Awn occasionally issues threats to the Lebanese deputies and figures with the support of the Zionists, forgetting Lebanon has broken its shackles, the time of threats, blackmail, and exaggeration has gone forever, and that the Lebanese realized the real remedy when they announced their allegiance to the banner of legitimacy, their support for the reconciliation government, and their adherence to coexistence, without which no Lebanese will have any future.

The Lebanese popular and official decision is one and the same and can be summed up in the word "reconciliation." 'Awn and the spiteful sides that support him never will be able to overcome the Lebanese will or change the course of the ship.

The people on both sides of Beirut have realized their only deliverance will be achieved by 'Awn's departure. They have realized 'Awn is implementing an Israeli plot detrimental to all the Lebanese. It only is axiomatic to say all of Lebanon, the Arabs, and the whole world cannot be wrong and the insurgent general right. If the insurgent general refuses to depart the scene by himself, their is no alternative to using a suitable language. If the United States has permitted itself to dispatch forces to Panama, which is an independent, sovereign state, to remove General Noriega, then the Lebanese have the right to end the insurgency in their own territory. The insurgent commander is a Lebanese Army officer. He challenges the president of the republic, the national government, the Chamber of Deputies, the Army Command, and the Defense Ministry, as well as the will of all the Lebanese people's groups.

The coming days, which will witness the end of the international consultations on Lebanon, undoubtedly will shed more light on forthcoming moves. While it is true the legitimacy hopes to end the insurgency peacefully, the continuation of it no longer can be overlooked, because of its immense inherent dangers to Lebanon's unity and future. This is what President al-Hirawi pointed out when he affirmed his full resolve to impose the legitimacy over the entire Lebanese soil.

Papers See Imminent Solution

JN2212082889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Unanimity on National Unity in Lebanon Will Remove Insurgency," AL-BA'TH says:

Recent indications concerning Lebanon on regional and international arenas confirm the final, decisive solution to the abnormal phenomenon in East Beirut is imminent. They also confirm 'Awn's arrogance and stubbornness never can block the march of reconciliation and peace, which enjoys local, Arab, and international support.

The most prominent of these indications is Lebanese accord in uniting nationalist ranks and rallying around legitimacy, which was consolidated by the first steps taken to implement the al-Ta'if agreement. This began with the election of a president and the formation of the national reconciliation government; along with this, the march of rebuilding started and the new republic was born.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Those who observe the events in the Lebanese arena easily will understand that the Lebanese people's adherence to legitimacy has resulted in increased world support for the march to dispose of suffering, and has boosted moves to achieve the solution by putting an end to the insurgency and liberating B'abda and al-Yarzah from the hands of the minority, which has tampered enough with the homeland's and citizens' security.

Under the headline "Inevitability of Lebanon's Victory," AL-THAWRAH explains the dangers posed by the abnormal phenomenon of 'Awn, who has links with Lebanon's enemies, chiefly Israel and Baghdad's fascist regime. It asserts the need to end the insurgency to deter those who try prolonging it and establishing new realities to serve their partitionist plot. AL-THAWRAH also stresses the inevitability of the Arab solution's victory and the refusal to coexist with the abnormal phenomenon, which would waste time.

AL-THAWRAH says: Lebanese legitimacy—represented by its president, national reconciliation government, and institutions—has the right to use the method best suited for action and to follow the course it believes will save Lebanon from the abnormal situation that threatens its unity and hampers its march, as well as the march to spread the rule of law over the Lebanese territories.

Al-THAWRAH concludes by saying: Lebanese legitimacy, supported on the popular, Arab, and international levels, has determined the origins and consequences of the threat. It therefore certainly has determined the way to deal with these origins and has outlined the program to remove the insurgency and fortify the unity of Lebanon—its territory and people.

Arab Solidarity Needed

JN2012095089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Arab Solidarity and the Achievement of Our Nation's Objectives," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Arab solidarity, which Syria has adopted since the corrective movement, was not a transitional slogan necessitated by transient circumstances. In fact, it was and still is the cornerstone of the contemporary march of our struggle to unify stands and close ranks to confront the Zionist danger to our nation's existence, territory, and entity.

AL-BA'TH adds: Arab solidarity, which proved its efficiency during the October war of liberation and produced important results, constitutes a formula for unionist action for which our nation aspires and struggles so as to remove all remnants of all the old colonialist eras and to confront the Zionist onslaught, which used the estrangement and fragmentation in Arab ranks as a deadly weapon against our nation.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has confronted all attempts to Arabize the conflict. Thanks to its firm and principled stands toward our nation's pan-Arab issues, Syria was able to protect the contemporary Arab struggle march from deviations and obstacles placed in its way. It has adopted the right stand toward Saddam's crazy war and prevented its conflagrations from spreading into the fraternal Arab Gulf states. It also has entrenched the Arab solution in Lebanon and safeguarded its unity, independence, and sovereignty.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: After the Zionist enemy tried all means and methods to divert the Arabs' attention from their central cause, this cause again has topped the list of priorities of Arab interest and requires a developed and effective formula of solidarity among brothers. This is for what Arab Syria has worked and continues to work, to support our nation's objectives of liberation, unity, and progress.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: It has become clear Arab weakness stimulates Israel's appetite for aggression, and that negligence of Arab rights revives its expansionist biblical dreams. Every Arab step backward means a step forward for the Zionists to fulfill their dreams of imposing their control over the entire Arab soil. On the other hand, facts prove bolstering Arab solidarity, mobilizing Arab potential, reinforcing Arab strength, and boosting the will of steadfastness are the only means to force Israel to retreat and to foil Zionist dreams.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: 'Awn, who is proceeding rashly during the stage of collapse, poses a real threat to Lebanon, its unity, and Arab future. 'Awn is trying to benefit from the time factor to entrench the illegitimate state of partition he represents.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Lebanon would face danger if it were subjugated to 'Awn's twisted logic. 'Awn seeks to foment sedition and keep the doors open for the most serious possibilities. 'Awn refuses to restore security, peace, and stability, and to respond to legitimacy, which is supported on the national, Arab, and international levels.

AL-THAWRAH adds: With every passing day in Lebanon, there is dire need to end this situation that threatens to partition Lebanon and cancel its existence. From this premise, it no longer is acceptable to remain silent about 'Awn's practices and his divisionist course. Lebanese legitimacy, which has every right to use all means to end this abnormal state, finds in the national, Arab, and international consensus every support for all its decisions to settle the situation and achieve accord, stability, and security.

AL-THAWRAH Discusses Euro-Arab Dialogue

JN2212071089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Dec 89

[From the press review]

[Text] In its political analysis, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the Paris conference for Euro-Arab dialogue, and ponders possibly giving a new boost to the march of relations between the dialogues' two parties. It also points out dialogue had been obstructed many times before because of European insistence on excluding politics and dealing only with subjects related to economic and technical aspects.

AL-THAWRAH says: Western Europe is concerned, more than any other party, with the Middle East issue due to a number of historical and political factors. It can play an effective role in bringing about the needed solution's form. A number of signs recently have begun to surface that indicate Europeans are losing their patience with Israel's serious human rights violations. They have issued many statements denouncing and condemning these criminal violations. What now is needed is for the European position not limit itself to that level, but to develop into more effective forms to force Israel to submit to the world community's will and to recognize the Palestinian people's national legitimate rights. Will the Paris conference succeed in developing such a position? That is the question.

Al-Zu'bi Lays Foundation Stone of 6 October Dam

JN2012162789 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1508 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi has affirmed that Syria, under President Hafiz al-Asad, is a politically, economically, and militarily strong country and the most powerful center of the Palestine question and the intifadah among the people in the Golan Heights and the occupied territories.

Al-Zu'bi, who deputized for President Hafiz al-Asad in laying the foundation stone of the 6 October Dam, said in a speech today that Syria is a strong pillar of the Lebanese national accord manifested in its march toward solving the Lebanese crisis, saving it from the dangers of fragmentation and partition, and making Lebanon strong, able, and unified—capable of liberating its south from Israeli occupation.

During celebrations on this occasion, Al-Zu'bi said Syria is working toward independence by setting up projects and forming a balanced, monumental, and strong economic and social structure that cannot be affected by pressures or influenced by forces desiring to distort Syria's political and economic image or aiming to destroy its ambitious energy.

The prime minister pointed out the 6 October Dam, being built on the Euphrates River near Manbij, parallels the Euphrates Dam in the amount of land it irrigates and electricity it generates.

Afghanistan

U.S. 'Aggression' Against Panama Criticized

LD2112230289 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] An Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman said the armed attack on Panama by the United States is aggression against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of an independent country, a UN member, and a Nonaligned Movement member. The spokesman added that this attack by the United States, which by its nature violates the UN Charter and norms of international law, has been denounced by the Afghan people.

In the early hours of this aggression a large number of Panamanian civilians were killed as a result of air raids, artillery fire, tank fire, and heavy weapons fire from the U.S. military forces.

The Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman called for the immediate and unconditional ending of the armed aggession against Panama by the United States.

1 Killed in 'Extremists' Missile Attack on Kabul

LD2112230389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpts] Pakistani-linked extremists today fired 10 U.S. long-range surface-to-air missiles at populated residential areas of Kabul from the direction of Paghman, thus committing another crime against our faithful and Muslim compatriots. [passage omitted] One of our compatriots was martyred, and seven others, including women and children, were wounded. One missile hit a charity organization and center, wounding four people. Heavy damage was inflicted on the building. Other missiles hit our compatriots' homes and two schools, inflicting heavy material loss. The wounded were transferred to hospital for treatment.

Rebels Kill 20 Militiamen, Destroy Herat Post

BK2112142589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce clashes between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Ghaziabad area of Herat Province, in which at least 20 personnel of the Kabul militia were killed and 12 tanks and military vehicles were destroyed. According to MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN, mujahidin launched rocket attack at (Qaleh-ye Yusuf) in Gozareh District, destroying a Kabul military post, two tanks, and capturing five personnel of the militia.

Bangladesh

Government Silent on U.S. Action in Panama

BK2212094889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 22 (AFP)—Several left-wing Bangladeshi political parties on Friday condemned the U.S. military invasion of Panama, saying it was a manifestation of Washington's "policing attitude" on Central America.

The government of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has offered no comment yet on Wednesday's bloody U.S. intervention in Panama to overthrow army strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega.

According to Washington, 19 U.S. troops and 59 Panamian soldiers were killed in the military action.

A Dhaka daily Friday carried statements of several leftist parties and groups protesting the U.S. action as "aggression" and calling for the immediate withdrawal of the invading troops.

The five-party left alliance of Nirmal Sen said the U.S. action would not only affect world peace but threaten the independence and sovereignty of Latin American states, the opposition newspaper NEW NATION reported.

The alliance is due to hold a protest march in downtown Dhaka late Friday.

Similar statements were issued by smaller left-wing parties, but no reaction has come from the major opposition parties.

In a critical front-page article, the leading opposition weekly HOLIDAY on Friday said: "The U.S. invasion... once again raised a fundamental question... Whether outside forces have the right to choose who should govern another country and in what method.

"There is no sympathy for Noriega in any corner of the world, but the way the USA invaded Panama is equally reprehensible."

Chinese Navy Chief Calls on Military Officials

BK2012164089 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] Visiting Commander of Chinese People's Liberation Army Navy Vice Admiral Zhang Lianzhong called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad, and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Mumtazzuddin Ahmed in Dhaka today. They discussed matters of mutual interest.

Vice Admiral Zhang also placed wreaths on the [word indistinct] at Dhaka cantonment to pay his respect to the members of the Armed Forces who embraced martyrdom in the war of liberation. He also visited the national museum in the capital.

'Disgusted' Shanti Bahini Sergeant Surrenders

BK2012125689 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Text] The so-called Shanti Bahini [Peace Force] sergeant (Meng Mangshupru Mama) surrendered to Bangladesh security forces at Bandarban on Wednesday [20 December] with an automatic rifle, 145 rounds of bullets, and 3 magazines. While surrendering, he said he was disgusted with the terrorist activities of the so-called Shanti Bahini, who are perpetrating murder, looting, and arson in the hill tracts region.

India

Gujral: U.S. Panama Action 'Highly Deplorable'

BK2112155889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1540 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] India has deplored U.S. armed intervention in Panama, and hoped that it will end soon and the American forces will be withdrawn. Making a statement in both the houses of Parliament, the external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, said the Government of India is deeply concerned at the American action in Panama, which has led to loss of innocent lives.

The minister said the internal situation in Panama is confusing. New Delhi is in touch with the Indian ambassador. Mr Gujral informed the house that all members of the Indian mission are safe.

In the Rajya Sabha, several members from the opposition benches made a number of queries on the statement. Mr Gujral categorically stated that U.S. action is highly deplorable and American forces should withdraw from Panama forthwith. Despite the categorical statement of the minister, the entire Congress-I opposition walked out.

Supreme Court Upholds Bhopal Gas Leak Settlement

BK2212091389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] A constitutional bench of the Supreme Court has upheld the validity of the Bhopal gas leak disaster processing of claims act 1985 under which the court had earlier ordered settlement of all claims against the multinational Union Carbide for $470 million. The much-awaited judgment was pronounced by a five-judge constitutional bench in a packed courtroom in New Delhi today in three separate but concurring judgments.

The main judgment, running up to 190 pages, was delivered by the chief justice, Mr Sabyasachi Mukharji, and Mr Justice K.N. Saikia. In his separate and concurrent judgment, Mr Justice K.N. Singh said Parliament should enact a law to avoid any delay in settling the claims of industrial disasters. Mr Justice Singh also suggested a statutory provision in industrial disaster fund so that the money is readily made available to the victims.

The other judgment was pronounced by Mr Justice S. Ranaganathan along with Justice A.M. Ahmadi.

The Bhopal gas leak disaster processing of claims act, which came into force in February 1985, authorized the union government to be the sole representative of the victims of the Bhopal gas tragedy and settle their claims with the multinational Union Carbide. It may be recalled that the lethal MIC [methyl isocyanide] had leaked from the Union Carbide's pesticide plant in Bhopal in December 1984 in which more than 3,000 people lost their lives and thousands were maimed and incapacitated in what was described as the world's worst industrial disaster.

The upholding of the 1985 act by the court does not end the challenge to the settlement itself. A bunch of petitions seeking review of the quantum of the settlement with the Union Carbide ordered by the Supreme Court in February this year are still pending before the apex court.

Paper Hails U.S. 'Unofficial Gesture' on Trade

BK1812135889 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 89 p 11

[Editorial: "Fair U.S. Rating"]

[Text] The outgoing U.S. Ambassador to India, Dr John Hubbard's belief that the Bush Administration would remove India from the trade hit list under Super 301 appears to be plausible in view of the many positive things he said about the new Prime Minister, Mr V.P Singh, and his Cabinet in a recent interview to a New York-based Indian weekly. It is a fair indication from an envoy who had wide-ranging consultations in Washington last week that the U.S. Administration may now soften its stand towards the new Indian Government specially in matters of trade and commerce. Mr Hubbard's pat to Mr V.P. Singh as being "very pragmatic and realistic" and that he indeed was "the principal author of the economic liberalisation policies" under the Rajiv Gandhi regime could not have been just off-the-cuff remarks but seemed like a calculated exercise on the part of the Bush Administration using the envoy as a spokesman at smoothening the rough edges of Indo-U.S. relations, the most acute of which happened to be the Super 301 controversy. It was more than apparent that the U.S. action in bracketing India with Japan and Brazil had overtones of pressure tactics, since U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills earlier had spoken of the "leverage" of American domestic legislation.

It is now nearly six months since the U.S. declared India as an "unfair trader" and threatened to act against it.

Washington has evidently decided not to use the so-called "leverage" on the express belief that the new Government in New Delhi would not pursue policies inimical to European and U.S. trade interests. The Ambassador's other remark is also not without significance. He said that Mr Rajiv Gandhi's refusal to negotiate bilaterally with the U.S. on Super 301 was essentially an election posture. His more than forthright comments about the former Prime Minister are meant to clear the decks for a smoother and healthier relationship with the new Government in New Delhi. India too will have to respond positively to Washington's unofficial gesture. The liberalisation process appears to have pleased U.S. trade officials and they are expecting that it will continue unhampered since the author of this process is now at the helm of India's affairs.

Singh Replies to Debate on Confidence Motion

BK2112125589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has said that though his government is a minority one and has its limitations, it has to be seen in the context of the broader political scenario prevailing in the country.

Replying to the day-long debate on the motion seeking a vote of confidence in his government in the Lok Sabha today, he said it was the aspirations of the people to have a real political alternative. He said this political alternative is still in a process of development.

The prime minister welcomed the support given by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and left parties on the basis of implementation of certain programs and policies. He said this commitment to issues and implementation of programs rather than personalized politics is very significant and is the happiest thing to happen in this country.

The prime minister was still speaking when reports last came in.

Lok Sabha Adopts Motion on 'Majority Support'

BK2112165089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Excerpts] The National Front government headed by Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh has proved its majority support in the Lok Sabha by winning a vote of confidence. A motion in this regard was adopted by the house this evening by a voice vote amidst thumping of desks by the ruling party members and their supporters. The Congress-I and its allies abstained from voting on the official motion when the speaker, Mr Rabi Ray, put it to vote at the end of a day-long debate rounded off by a spirited reply from the prime minister.

Mr V.P. Singh said that though the political balance represented by his government looks delicate, it would ensure that the interests of the common man receive utmost attention. He pointed out that the formation of the National Front government with the support of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the left parties from outside marks a shift in the country's polity from personalized to issue-based politics. Mr Singh made an impassionate plea to other political parties and groups to support his government in tackling major national problems through consensus and reconciliation.

Earlier, top leaders of BJP, the left parties, and some other groups in the house reiterated their support to the new government and appreciated various initiatives taken by it till now. The prime minister's hour-long reply was a strong rebuttal of the opposition Congress-I charges and apprehensions regarding the structure of his government. He also dealt with the issues of Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, the economic situation, and other commitments of the ruling Front.

The prime minister categorically stated that his government firmly stands by the policy of reservation, and it will continue till genuine social and economic equality is established in the country. Mr V.P. Singh repeatedly emphasized that difference of perception is the basis of democracy, and his government will try to find common approaches on issues affecting the masses. Pointing out that the problems he has inherited are many, the prime minister reiterated that there will be no compromise with secessionists in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir. At the same time, he cautioned that the Punjab problem cannot be solved unless confidence is restored among all sections and injustice—if done anywhere—is removed.

Interrupting the prime minister thrice, the leader of the opposition, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, wanted to know what action the government has taken against secessionists and terrorists in Punjab. Mr Gandhi asked why those giving antinational statements are allowed to go scot-free. The prime minister assured that the government is seized of the matter and several steps have been decided at the recently concluded all-party meeting.

Initiating the discussion, Mr A.R. Antulay, Congress-I, sought to highlight the differing perceptions within the ruling Front and its allies. He said the government is existing on the mercies of the rightists and the charity of the leftists. [passage omitted]

Reiterating their support from outside, the BJP and the left parties said the new government needs time to fulfill its manifesto and clear the mess created by the previous regime. Mr L.K. Advani, BJP, said that the people's mandate in the last elections was clearly against the Congress-I. Mr Somnath Chatterjee, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], said the unity and integrity of the country was threatened by the wrong policies pursued by the Congress-I government. Mr Indrajit Gupta, CPI, felt if the present government implements the programs promised, that itself would take the country forward. Mr Noni Bhattacharya, RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party], and Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Block, said the verdict in the last elections was against the antipeople and antipoor policies pursued by the Congress-I government. Mr Janeshwar Mishra, Janata Dal, argued that democracy is not a game of counting numbers but caring for the feelings of the people. Offering her party support, Mrs Rajendar Kaur of the Akali Dal-Mann expressed the hope that the new government will provide a healing touch to assuage the hurt feelings of the people of Punjab. While Mr Shibu Swaran of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha welcomed the change at the center, Mr Ibrahim Sulaiman Sait of the Muslim League said his party will judge every issue on merit.

Mr P.L. Handu of the National Conference, Mr P.C. Thomas of the Kerala Congress, and Mr Muthiah of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham] opposed the motion of confidence in the present government. Supporting the motion, Mr Vaman Rao Mahadik, Shiv Sena, accused the former government of not paying serious attention to the price situation. Mr A.K. Roy of the Marxist coordination committee wondered why the Congress-I has no courage to vote against the government, though it says it is a minority one. Mr Gopal Rao Mayakar, MGP [Marathwadi Gomantak Party], said the National Front government has created new hopes among the people.

Rajya Sabha Approves Bill on Reservations

BK2112130489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today unanimously adopted the Constitution 62d Amendment Bill, giving its approval to continue reservation of seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and representation of the Anglo-Indian community by nomination in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies for another 10 years. One hundred and ninety-one members voted in favor and none against.

Attack on Indian Cricketers in Karachi Condemned

BK2112095589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0930 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha today condemned the violent incidents at Karachi during the 1-day cricket match between India and Pakistan yesterday. Raising the issue during a special mention, members from both sides described the attack by a section of the Pakistani spectators on Indian players as unfortunate. They urged the government to convey to the Pakistan Government the country's feelings of displeasure and ensure that in future such incidents do not take place. They also wanted the Indian Cricket Control Board to take up the issue with the International Cricket Board.

1 Killed, 5 Injured in Bombing in Srinagar

BK2112155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one person died and five were injured in a bomb blast in Srinagar today. The explosion occurred in a building housing the Allahabad Bank near Iqbal Park.

In another incident, one car was extensively damaged in an explosion in a building housing the tourism department of the Government of India in Rajbagh.

Meanwhile, in Shupiyan and Anantnag, curfew was relaxed from 0800 to 1800 following improvement in the situation. The day curfew has been lifted in Baramula and Sopor.

7 Injured in Bomb Blast in Ludhiana, Punjab

BK2212074489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including three security personnel, were injured in a powerful bomb blast in Ludhiana early this morning. Reports say that the explosion took place at a place where newspaper hawkers gathered to collect the papers for distribution. The injured had been admitted to the civil hospital in Ludhiana. Shutters and windows of half a dozen shops near the place were also damaged in the blast.

Iran

Further Comment, Reaction to Panama Situation

Action Contravenes UN Charter

LD2112121389 Tehran IRNA in English 1058 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] United Nations, Dec. 21, IRNA—The U.S. military aggression against Panama is an infringement of principles of the U.N. charter for preservation of international peace and security.

U.S. representative to the U.N. Thomas Pickering has claimed that the military action was carried out on the basis of Article 51 of the U.N. Charter.

This is not the first time the U.S. has resorted to this article in order to violate territorial integrity, independence and sovereignty of other states.

The U.S. open support for Nicaraguan contras and interference in that country's internal affairs which was condemned by The Hague in July 26, 1986, was based on the same article.

U.S. aggression against Libya in 1986 and its attack on Iran's oil installations and tankers during the Iraqi-imposed war, were justified by the U.S. 'special interpretation' of this same article.

The U.N. Resolution 3314 of December 14, 1974 allows resorting to Article 51 only if a case of violation is reported. However, the U.S. has attacked Panama while the latter has launched no aggression against the former.

Moreover, the U.S. has not only infringed Article 51, but also articles 2, 33 and 37 of the U.N. Charter and by attacking Panama has threatened territorial integrity of other regional states including Nicaragua.

The best explanation to the latest U.S. aggression is the saying that has become popular in the U.N. these days: "Use of force in international relations is prohibited unless it is used forcefully."

Doubts About U.S. Intentions Raised

LD2112201189 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—While the Christian world prepares for X-mas American statesmen in keeping with their anti-Christ policy of expansionism and domination have descended upon tiny Panama, of course not as Santa Claus does, riding on his gift-laden sleigh, but on tanks equipped with deathly gifts for their fellow Christians.

The latest reports say that a great number of Panamanians, mainly civilians have been killed or wounded in the savage air and ground attacks unleashed since Wednesday by an administration rightly dubbed as the 'Great Satan.'

Apropos, President George Bush, your administration has presented a bloody gift for the world's Christians. Very bloody indeed, that it saddens Christ (peace be upon Him) and makes Lucifer chuckle with joy.

Even the timing of the latest aggression has raised many doubts as to what the Americans real intentions, especially at this crucial juncture when reforms and changes are underway in the East, and the Eastern superpower seems eager to cut its military forces and withdraw its tentacles.

If ever there were doubts about Washington's state terrorism, the military aggression on Panama removes them, and presents a blatant breach of all internationally-accepted principles. It comes after the hostile tirade of the U.S. and its propaganda machine against the tiny state and its ruler..

The 81-km long Panama Canal which connects the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, is one of the main bones of contention between Panama—in whose territory it lies—and the U.S. whose greed and avarice knows no bounds.

It caused a crisis in 1979 when the then U.S. President Jimmy Carter signed an agreement with the Panamanian Government promising to delegate authority of the Canal to the latter by the year 2000. But Washington never hid its reluctance to abide by the accord it itself signed with Panama.

In 1988, the U.S. Government, in a bid to reduce the power of Panama's ruling military government which it has always considered a big hurdle to its full domination over that country, accused General Noriega, the commander of the National Guards, of drug trafficking.

The U.S. charges were followed by the dismissal of Noriega by Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle, but a day later, the military toppled Delvalle and raised the general to the leadership, much to the detriment of the American administration.

The relations steadily deteriorated between a sovereign state determined to protect its independence and an overweening bully scheming to devour the meek.

Finally on the threshold of Christmas, President Bush gave the green signal to American Marines to occupy Panama and massacre its people, an act which more than anything else unveils the falsehood of loud-mouthed slogans of democracy chanted by those running the Satanic administration in Washington.

It is the limit of hypocrisy. The U.S., while supporting blood thirsty and dictatorial governments in Latin America and other parts of the globe, accuses nations striving to get rid of American domination as 'terrorists' and through its propaganda trumpets, tries to justify its own acts of full-scale state terrorism.

The U.S. military attack on Panama and its cold-blooded massacre of Panamanian people under the lame pretext of protecting democracy is nothing but humiliation of all human principles and international regulations by the American President and his European allies.

No doubt the U.N. Security Council is unlikely to deal with the aggression seriously but the duty of all freedom lovers in the world is to stand against Washington and leave no room for these formal terrorists and barbarians who are holding the modern world as hostage to their sinister designs.

Papers Cited on U.S. 'Aggression'

LD2112191489 Tehran IRNA in English 1350 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21, IRNA—Persian dailies today lashed out at the U.S. Administration for its blatant military aggression against Panama.

At a time when the world is supposedly moving towards peace, said ABRAR's editorial "Strange Things Are Happening on the Other Side of the Globe."

"Those pretending to advocate democracy have launched one of the most barbaric military attacks on an independent sovereign state and a member of the United Nations," it deplored.

At about noon Tehran time Wednesday, more than 13,000 American soldiers equipped with the most modern means of mass killing instruments launched an unprovoked aggression on Panama upon the orders of President George Bush.

By committing this fresh act of state terrorism, said ABRAR, they added another dark page to its bulging file of aggressions against the freedom-loving nations of the world.

It cried a halt to the cold-blooded massacre of defenseless men, women and children in Panama by the American Armed Forces, and said "the U.S. aggression has let loose a stream of blood down Panama as wide as the canal itself."

The people died only because they tried to defend the independence and territorial integrity of their country, the very same principles that have been included in the charter of the United Nations by the self-styled democratic states, it stressed.

The U.S. military attack on Panama is not a mere attack on a country or its people "but rather an attack on freedom, independence and humanity," concluded ABRAR.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI thought along the same lines, and in its weekly political analysis, said that latest reports confirm the fact that U.S. servicemen have spared no crimes against the Panamanian people.

"They are reportedly destroying any building used by Panamanian Government and people for defending their country against the U.S. aggression," it added.

"The magnitude of the crime is so great that it is not yet possible to assess the huge death toll of Washington's latest act of state terrorism," said the daily.

However, it seems that the American occupation forces have suffered heavy casualties and received heavy blows from the government and people of Panama, it added.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI blasting U.S. barabarism at a time of positive changes in Eastern Europe, cast doubts on the true intentions of the American Administration.

It brought out Washington's eccentric logic of launching an aggression on a country with a "right to sovereignty," massacring innocent children, women and even old men and trying to justify the crime on the basis of a federal court ruling which is no more than state-sponsored terrorism.

"Those who preach to others that international issues must be solved through peace and diplomacy, and not through force, have not hesitated to resort to the most savage means themselves in order to impose their wishes on others," said the daily.

"The modern world must not be a silent witness to such scenes since the actual enemy of humanity is a superpower who commits any crime in a bid to achieve its sinister goals," concluded JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2212122289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] The monotheistic and Muslim people of Iran were today solidly present at the meeting places for the Friday prayers throughout the country to uphold the immortal Mohammadan tradition.

In Tehran, the political-religious rites of the Friday prayers were held under the leadership of Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, with massive participation from God-loving Muslims at Tehran University and in the adjacent streets.

Stressing the need for full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran underlined in the sermons, the Islamic Republic of Iran's desire for peace. He then said: Our borders are clarified, the position of the Persian Gulf is also determined, and the border was marked in the 1975 Algiers agreement. The Iranian nation will never forfeit its rights on this.

He added: With heartfelt belief and faith in peace, the Islamic Republic of Iran regime has accepted the said resolution. That resolution must not be weakened in any way. While we desire true peace we shall not foresake our just rights whatsoever.

Referring to some differences between the Amal forces and the Lebanese Hezbollah he believed these differences were created through a plot by the enemies of Islam. Referring to the efforts of the responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to remove these differences, he addressed the Lebanese Muslims saying: We want you to turn all your guns at the usurper Israel and its allies who are today bent on creating another Maronite and Phalangist government.

In another part of his remarks, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani stressed the need for vigilance against the plots of world arrogance and then condemned the military invasion of Panama by the United States. He said the invasion was in controvention of international rules and regulations.

In his praise of the Seminary-University Unity Day, he also remembered martyr Dr Mohamad Mofattah, praising his service to Islam and to the revolution.

Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said the unity of the seminary and the university will be very effective in the reconstruction of the country. He stressed: The slogan of neither East nor West, which was declared by our great imam, must be translated into action through precision planning by the young generation and by scientific echelons. Luckily the government is busy on the task of planning. The nation and the Majles representatives must support the government in the achievement of its objectives.

Editorial on U.S., UK Blackmail in Peace Talks

NC2012160589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "World Powers Use Veto To Blackmail"]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held his first round of talks with the United Nations Secretary

General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the stalled Baghdad-Tehran peace talks last Tuesday in New York.

Before the talks, the U.N. chief had attended negotiations with Velayati's counterpart from Iraq Tariq Aziz.

Given the fifteen fruitless rounds of U.N.-sponsored talks between Iran and Iraq so far it can be concluded that the rulers in Baghdad are virtually thriving on the "no-war-no-peace" situation. In other words they have found this situation serving their socio-political designs to break the deadlock but virtually have cashed in on its protraction.

Iraq's intransigent and illogical positions vis-a-vis a step-by-step implementation of Resolution 598 is not hidden from anyone including the U.N. chief and the Security Council. But Perez de Cuellar's numerous reports on the reasons for the resolution's non-implementation have fallen on deaf ears in the Security Council.

It is indeed unfortunate that the Security Council members are defaulting over their international responsibilities and commitments out of a greedy consideration of their self-interests and political designs.

But this cannot and will not continue for long. Under present circumstances any sensible peson and government should recognize that most nations are now involved, explicitly or otherwise, in a rather pitched battle against the consequences of the division of the world into spheres of influence among global powers, after the World War II.

The permanent members of the Security Council, it seems, have developed a penchant for extracting a ransom of sorts from nations which have problems to be settled at the world body. In the past such ransoms were asked behind closed doors. Presently things have gone so far and so badly that international blackmailing has found expression in open and explicit channels.

A case in point concerns the U.S. and Britain. Feelers too have been sent to Iran that the problems of the stalled peace resolution and Iraqi stubbornness will be settled only after normalization of Iran's ties with these two countries.

Iran will not of course budge an inch in the face of such obnoxious blackmailing by these two permanent members of the Security Council.

But such a decadent state of affair in a reputable international forum concerned with world security and peace should be a warning for other U.N. member countries.

Today they are asking for tributes from Iran. Tomorrow it might be another nation that will be held to ransom in another form of blackmailing.

Changes, however, are sweeping through everywhere. As such changes will inevitably take over every institution particularly at the international level too, mainly due to the ever-increasing awareness among nations. [sentence as published]

It is not therefore out of point to ask why certain countries should enjoy this very unjust veto right in the chambers of a so-called international body? This quite unlawful 'right' will have to be rescinded one day or another with the same ease with which the Berlin Wall was torn down.

Commentary Views Turkey's EEC Application

NC2112134789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Untitled Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God. The EEC has rejected Turkey's application for membership. In the latest report which the EEC presented regarding the conditions for Turkey's membership, the need for serious discussion on the subject was mentioned and Turkey's application for membership has been shelved indefinitely. [passage omitted]

Ever since 1987, when Turkey expressed its desire to join the ranks of the countries which are members of the EEC, there has, for certain reasons, been opposition to this application. The range of reasons for the rejection of Turkey's application seems to match the spectrum of issues which that country faces internally and abroad. At times the issue of Turkey's regional rivalry with Greece in the Aegean Sea, Greece's reluctance, and the efforts on the part of Athens to prevent Turkey becoming an EEC member are raised as the major difficulties in this regard. [passage omitted].

According to political observers, there are other reasons for the rejection of Turkey's membership application. Historical conditions and the religion of the country, which is not the same as that professed by the European Community, are considered the main reasons for the rejection of Turkey's membership. Turkey represents a historical meeting place and confluence of the two cultures of Islam and Christianity. [passage omitted].

Some time ago FRG Chancellor Helmut Kohl stated, with reference to Turkey, that every country that wants to become a member of the EEC should know that this community is a Christian one and Christian values are followed. Those who wish to join should act within this framework.

In any case, Turkey today is the remnant of a great empire and is in its present condition because it has lost all its possessions. However, the framework specified by the FRG chancellor will definitely culminate in the country being absorbed in the culture of Europe.

Further on Economic Protocol With Romania

LD2112223589 Tehran IRNA in English 1002 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Tehran, Dec 21, IRNA—Deputy head of Plan and Budget Organisation Mas'ud Nili here Thursday highlighted details of the Iran-Romania Economic Protocol for 1990-2000, signed between the two countries yesterday.

According to the agreements reached, Iran will export two million tons of crude oil to Romania in return for oil products. Another two million tons of oil will be exported to Romania in the form of barter trade.

Meanwhile, for the first time Iran will sell over 1.6 million tons of crude oil to Romania in cash. Romania will also purchase one billion cubic meters of natural gas from Iran which it will pay back either in the form of cash or by assisting Iran in joint projects.

Nili added that the Romanian side has also expressed willingness to buy ten billion cubic meters of Iranian natural gas within the next seven years.

Agreement was also reached on export of 70,000 units of Iranian-made car radiators to Romania. Discussions were also held on export of car batteries to Romania and construction of cement, timber and chemical products factories in Iranian cities.

The two sides agreed in principle on expansion of industrial cooperation, training of manpower, and utilisation of Romanian primary materials and machinery to boost the capacity of the Iranian factories manufacturing various industrial machinery in the form of buy-back.

In the field of energy, Romania will cooperate with Iran in construction of Vafreqan dam near Saveh, 120 kms southwest of here. Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu ended an official 3-day visit to Tehran Wednesday after talks with Iranian officials and signing of agreements.

Commentary on 'Hostile' Schemes Against Muslims

NC2012194789 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1750 GMT 20 Dec 89

[Political commentary]

[Text] Political observers have discerned a fixed pattern in the activity undertaken by the powers hostile to Islam and the Muslims. Whenever these powers wish to extend their area of influence in the region or strike at the pillars of Islamic awareness and the liberation forces in the region, they hasten to prepare for their action by using well-known arrangements whose terminology is clear and whose methodology is obvious.

To pave the way for their planned activity in this direction, the powers of arrogance have always used the following words: increasing terrorism in the region. The methodology used in their approach depends on creating an atmosphere of tension and generating fear of the activities and moves by the Islamic vanguard in the region. Nowadays, there is intensive activity by the forces of arrogance and Zionism in this respect. The wide-ranging media clamor by the powers of arrogance and Zionism over the so-called increasing terrorism and the possible occurrence of terrorist attacks, as well as the provoked large-scale collisions with the Islamicists in Egypt and Tunis, all point to basic facts about the hostile schemes and activities at this stage. These facts can be summed up in the following points:

1. The powers of arrogance and Zionism strongly feel today that all their political and media tools in the region have failed to overcome the Islamic awareness of and resistance to the schemes of arrogance and Zionism. This awareness has scored new victories, which threaten to undermine all new plans by the forces of arrogance as well as the Zionist normalization efforts. Thus, it seems that the powers of arrogance and the Zionists have decided to intervene directly and deal terrorist blows to the pillars of awareness in this nation. Preparations for this are under way by means of raising the issue of terrorism and increasing tension in the region.

2. An assessment of the conditions in the region by the powers of arrogance and Zionism seems to have led to the conclusion that the rise of popular and Islamic awareness can influence political decisionmaking in some Islamic countries, forcing decisionmakers to retreat before the rising Islamic and popular awareness and to lose some ground to this trend. Therefore, the arrogant and Zionist powers sought to create an atmosphere of tension with a view to ensnaring the political regimes in the region and pushing them toward a confrontation with the Muslim masses, thus cutting the remaining bridges linking these regimes to their Muslim peoples.

Paper Assails Iraqi 'Obstructionism' Over POW's

NC2112161889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Dec 89 p 3

[Unattributed political commentary: "Iraq Is Dragging Its Feet on the Issue of POW's"]

[Excerpts] In his recent meeting with the director general of the International Red Cross for the Middle East, the Islamic of Republic of Iran's foreign minister once again announced Iran's readiness to exchange all disabled and wounded POW's.

Iran had earlier announced its willingness to exchange all POW's, to be accompanied by simultaneous withdrawal of forces to international borders. However, as was the case with all earlier generous and solid proposals by Iran to break the impasse stemming from Iraq's obstructionism, which continues to thwart the efforts for peace, this proposal was also rejected by the Iraqi ruling party for no plausible reason. passage omitted]

The Iraqi regime has opposed all humanitarian efforts to secure an exchange of POW's and continues to subject the issue to its policy of deceiving the public. It has done nothing but spread a series of falsehoods. Such propaganda does not hold up even among its allies. passage omitted]

If the Iraqis were sincere in seeking a way to enable the POW's to return to their families and safeguard their lives, they would at least have taken the trouble of registering the names of all Iranian POW's. Despite the passage of many years, it appears that the International Red Cross has not been able to or has not wanted to register the names of at least half the Iranian POW's.

The fact is that today the Iraqis are so vulnerable in its position on the POW's and there is such a vast contradiction between its words and their deeds that that even its allies are not prepared to support its rhetoric. Iraq is dragging its feet on the POW issue. Iraq has no justification for its inhuman behavior toward the POW's and its aim is merely obstructionism and stalling tactics.

The Iraqis wish to achieve through obstructionism and delay what they could not achieve in 8 years of war. [passage omitted]

KEYHAN Interviews Kho'iniha on Elections

NC1912144589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
12 Dec 89 p 20

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Musavi Kho'iniha, member of the central council of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez Association and official in charge of the Tehran Institute of Strategic Studies, by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Kho'iniha] [Passage omitted] We are a revolutionary nation and we insist on following the principles of the revolution, even if the powers or superpowers of the world laugh at us. In short, the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez comprises those who have the strength to remain steadfast and resist economic embargoes and political stagnation in the world. It comprises those who are not daunted by the frowns of the superpowers and do not care whether the stronger and greater powers in this world are pleased with us and whether they are our friends. The association's policy is along these lines, and it is natural that whether the elections are full term or midterm we should identify those individuals who have accepted these principles and should introduce them as being most suitable to represent our society in the Majles.

This is exactly what the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez has done. It has introduced four candidates from among those who have the above qualifications and who, in our opinion, would be the strongest and most earnest supporters of the imam's path and the imam's line . Of course all the four candidates introduced by the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez are familiar faces to the residents of Tehran and in our society generally.

Our most dear and esteemed brother Mr Mohtashemi is one of the revolutionary and combatant clerics who was with the imam from the beginning of the struggle. He was with the imam in Najaf during the years of his exile and he was also at the imam's service in Paris for the few months that the imam stayed there. He was always the object of the imam's favor and blessings. He is a staunch figure, one who is capable, revolutionary, intelligent, and familiar with and quick to grasp world affairs as well as the domestic affairs of the country. He has the revolutionary and popular nature and spirit which are necessary for a political and popular personality who is a sympathizer with the oppressed.

Our other brother is Mr Behzad Nabavi, who was also a familiar face among the strugglers prior to the victory of the revolution over the idolatrous system and who endured imprisonment in the shah's dungeons. He is one of those who fought by the side of noble ones like the martyr Raja'i. Despite the extremely poisonous and contaminated atmosphere which the monafeqin [hypocrites—Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] had created in the prisons, brother Behzad Nabavi remained steadfast in those conflicts and steadily followed the imam's path, clashing with the monafeqin and the opponents of Islam in the prisons.

After the victory of the revolution, he also rendered meritorious service in various posts, alongside martyr Raja'i. In subsequent cabinets he served as minister, including minister of heavy industries, for many years; and he was repeatedly endorsed by the Islamic Majles. He is of course a strong, powerful, and dedicated figure, with the courage of his convictions, which is why he also has opponents and enemies. I personally heard his eminence the imam's endorsement of him at a session when the imam (may God be pleased with him) was extremely perturbed and angry regarding those in this country who are constantly striving to malign those indiviuals who are dedicated and loyal to the Islamic Republic, so that they may be disgraced and removed from the scene or cast aside, and be replaced by the enemies of the Islamic Republic.

This incident pertained to a dossier on which the imam had issued a particular decree. He wrote certain notes and observations on that dossier which I have written and placed before our brothers. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Recently an objection was raised about Mr Behzad Nabavi, one of the candidates of the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez, which has been raised several times before. The last time was at the end of Engineer Musavi's tenure of office when the matter was mentioned in the Majles and the Majles gave him a vote of confidence. What is your opinion on this and what is the reason for this kind of treatment of those who support the system and the revolution?

[Kho'iniha] About Mr Behzad Nabavi, the Ruhaniyun-e Mobarez Association gave him the support appropriate for one who has been judged as having the necessary qualifications. This was our duty and it was not the matter of an individual only. The sensitivity displayed by the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez Association was sensitivity in favor of an individual as well as support for the truth and the defense of one who is being tyrannized. We consider this our duty and it was important to us, but what was even more important was the prevention of deviation from the path of the revolution.

This was most important and absolutely imperative, as his eminence the imam (may God be pleased with him) had during the tenure of his leadership after the revolution constantly stressed that those who are dedicated and devout as regards Islam and the revolution should be retained on the political scene and in the administration of society. If we ponder over this seriously for a moment, we will realize that this is the correct thing to do. Our government is not based on a factional system in which every faction which is victorious would take over the government. No, it is not so. From the time of the triumph of the revolution we have never had such a system, and therefore those who are devout and dedicated to Islam and the revolution should be present on the scene. [passage omitted]

One of our problems is that we consider ourselves the sole custodians of religion or Islam and we think that Islam is something that has been given to us alone, a light which has shone in our hearts alone. Regarding the revolution, a person may feel that he is the only one who understands the revolution and all its principles and no one else understands anything. This is an error on our part. [passage omitted] It is not proper that a group should denigrate an individual who has spent all his life in struggle alongside other Muslim combatants, is 100 percent dedicated to Islam, and has been endorsed by us. He has also held important posts in the system of the Islamic Republic, is conversant and acquainted with all the issues, major and minor, in this country, and has been the focus of attention of the officials and stalwarts of the revolution. It is obvious such treatment is not correct.

The Council of Guardians adopted a correct policy against such a deviant gesture. It realized that those who committed this act had made a mistake, so it rectified it. Legally, however, it was also the duty of the Council of Guardians to rectify any mistake made by the committee it set up; fortunately, it took a correct approach. I also thank the Council of Guardians for discharging their duty with the necessary attention. God willing, the elections will take place in a healthy atmosphere, and the candidates' canvassing will also be beneficial in motivating people to participate in the elections. [passage omitted]

Minister on Increasing Industrial Production

NC1312133289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 13 Dec 89

[Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran correspondent Akbari's report on his interview with Ne'matzadeh, minister of Industries, in Ilam; date not given—recorded]

[Text] With the expansion of industrial production in the country's 5-Year Plan and the increase in the ceiling of production, the value of industrial exports is expected to rise to $9 billion. Industries Minister Ne'matzadeh, currently in Ilam to participate in the 18th session of the directors general of industrial organizations of the provinces, addressed correspondents. While announcing the above, he referred to the strategy of expanding industrial exports envisioned for the second and third 5-year plans and said:

In the 5-year plan, textiles, chemicals, detergents, foodstuffs, and mineral and wood products will be exported to foreign markets. Stressing that boosting industrial production is an important step toward achieving economic independence and curtailing dependence, he said: In the coming years, more than 7,000 projects for creating and expanding industrial units in the country are to be sanctioned and will be handed over to qualified applicants.

In conclusion, the minister of industries alluded to the government's policy on expansion of industrial units in the deprived provinces and said: In keeping with this policy and in view of the abundance of resources in Ilam Province, this ministry will construct an industrial township in Ilam. It will cover an area of 120 hectares, and five industrial areas will be set up in Dehloran, (Shirvan Chardavol) Eyvan-e Gharb, Mehran, and Darrehshahr.

PTT Minister on Increase in Digital Telephones

NC1312125589 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 2 Dec 89 p 2

[Text] Orumiyeh: The installation of more than 1.5 million new telephones throughout the country has been envisaged under the first 5-year plan for economic development.

Engineer Gharazi, minister of post, telegraph, and telephones, who had traveled to Orumiyeh yesterday, made this announcement to correspondents of the mass media. He added: One million of the telephones will have the most modern digital telephone connections.

The post, telegraph, and telephone minister stressed: In the 5-year plan for economic development, 300,000 telephone connections will be set up in various areas of the country. About 8,220 villages will be linked by satellite under the plan by the year 1372 [year beginning March 1993].

The post, telegraph, and telephone minister, commenting on his ministry's readiness to initiate telefax services in the current year all over the country, said: The most modern facilities will be used as far as postal services are concerned.

According to IRNA, the post, telegraph, and telephone minister elaborated on the possible expansion of telecommunications in West Azarbayjan after the victory of the revolution and the results of these efforts and added:

The increase in telephone exchanges from 3 cities to 19 cities in this province is part of this progress.

Cultural Revolution Council Secretary Interviewed

NC1412093789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Dec 89

[Recorded interview with by Hashemi-Golpayegani, secretary of the Supreme Council for the Cultural Revolution by correspondent Berahman]

[Text] [Berahman] We are marking the anniversary of the formation of the Supreme Council for the Cultural Revolution, and recently the leadership appointed some members to the council to strengthen it. Please tell us what the Supreme Council for the Cultural Revolution's future plans are.

[Hashemi-Golpayegani] We expect to prepare a report on the general cultural situation in the country. We will study the situation of youths and adolescents; the implementation of policies on films, theaters, the Voice and Vision, and the press; cultural problems of Iranians abroad; cultural problems in prisons; cultural problems of the various nationalities, national costumes, and traditions; the cultural role in (?disseminating) Islamic slogans; and the cultural aspect of drug addiction. As far as universities are concerned, we will study the plan for university management; the issue of a university charter; the approach to various cultural problems; and basically political problems in universities and the plan for freedom of debates and exchanges of views in higher education centers. And finally, we will discuss the formation of a Persian language academy, criteria for the formation of research centers, and a plan called the welfare of university students, professors, and employees.

What is on the agenda now and will be discussed in our next meeting is the formation of a Persian language academy; criteria for the formation of research centers; the policy of scholarships and sending students to the United States; the welfare of university students, professors, and employees; permission from the Plan and Budget Organization to set up an advanced research center; and similar issues. In general, as emphazied by the lofty leadership, we will try to focus on public culture. We have thoroughly studied the issue of education and policymaking in this field. Now the Council will try in its agenda to focus on public culture.

[Berahman] Thank you very much,

[Hashemi-Golpayegani] You are welcome.

Official Comments on Future Land Distribution

NC1612110389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 89

[Text] Mr Fazel Harandi, representative of the Vice Regency of the Supreme Jurisconsult in the Headquarters for Land Distribution Committees and head of the Majles Agriculture Committee, has stated that during the 5-year economic, social, and cultural development plan period, more than 250,000 hectares of land will be given to farmers as assistance from the government and the people.

In an interview with our colleague, he said that with a 10.242-million rial investment and the same amount of assistance from the people, about 80,000 hectares of land will be prepared for farming and given to farmers. Also, with the help of the people, more than 170,000 hectares will be offered to applicants on the basis of Clause 3 and other clauses on bank credits, he said.

Pointing out that the greatest number of jobs are in the agricultural field, he said that the committees in charge of land will prepare an average of 50,000 hectares of land for farming each year during the 5-year plan, and by giving this quantity of land to applicants, jobs will be created for more than 150,000 families in the country.

TEHRAN TIMES Views Increasing Population

NC1812140089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Dec 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Population Growth Poses National Problem"]

[Text] The National Five-Year Development Plan has been a hot topic of discussion on the agenda of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Majles, since Sunday.

The backdrop for the debate was set up by the spokesman for the Majles Plan and Budget Committee who briefed the deputies on factors responsible for the current adverse economic situation of the nation.

Enumerating what can be termed "economic plagues" he in particular referred to the issue of the overpopulation and its exorbitantly high rate of growth.

The unbridled growth of the population that has increased by leaps and bounds has been a constant worry of the officials and planners of the nation in recent years.

With a population of only 33 million in 1976, Iran now homes over 55 million people—an increase of 22 million in only 12 years. This galloping rate of population growth is too high by any standard.

This troublesome rate entails two other worrying issues. One is the ever increasing rate of rural emigration to urban areas. At present some 57 percent of the nation resides in the cities.

The other factor concerns the age characteristic of the Iranian population. The nation is very young in terms of various age groups that constitute the population. A national survey in 1986 revealed a rather shocking fact: 45.5 percent of the population is made up of people in the 15-year age bracket and less.

In economic terms this young population can only adversely affect the economic plannings as this populace feature will shoot up consumer goods and services prices at the national level.

In other words this young population has still a long way to enter the productive phase and as such the state's economic commitments will not only slacken but will rise for many years to come.

From the consumer perspective and given the country's limited productive capacity the future is rather gloomy when the ample needs of this young populace are considered in terms of food, health, clothing and education, etc.

The nation's 3.2 (and according to some quarters 3.8) population growth rate places it among the few countries which top the list of nations with a very high rate of population growth.

Tackling this immense problem however needs more than what the government can do to curb or bring the population growth under control.

The national media of communications have fortunately launched an education campaign on the dangers posed at the nation if the population growth is not soon arrested.

But the religious leaders and preachers too can play a crucial role along this line. Given the sociocultural milieu and structure of the Iranian society the masses listen to their religious leaders and trust them. It is hoped that with guidelines from the leadership of the Islamic Revolution and a thorough campaign by religious leaders this national problem is dealt with before it is too late.

*Report on Proceedings of 20 Nov Majles Session

90OI0064A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
22 Nov 89 pp 5, 10

[Text] Legal and Parliamentary Bureau:

The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi, and continued under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemiyan. In this session, after recitation of some verses from the Holy Qoran, Messrs Reza'i, the deputy from Shush and Andimeshk; Afrazadeh, the deputy from Nowshahr; and 'Abedi, the deputy from Behbahan spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Later, memos from the deputies to the executive officials of the country were read and then Majles came to order.

Following is the text of the speeches by the pre-agenda speakers and details of the discussions:

Hasan Reza'i, Deputy From Andimeshk and Shush

Mr Hasan Reza'i, the deputy of the people of Andimeshk and Shush, was the first pre-agenda speaker. At the beginning of his speech, he pointed out the anniversary of the formation of the Mobilization Crusade. He reminded all about the audiences of the Mobilization personnel with the imam, may God place him in heaven, in the previous years and said: This year the great gathering of the commanders of the Mobilization, in order to renew their covenant with the exalted leader of the revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, will take place beside the holy tomb of the imam. During Mobilization Week, the personnel of this organ will demonstrate their combat-readiness and might. Also, the brave Iranian nation, by maintaining its readiness and until the last person drops, will follow the guidelines of the imam and the beloved leadership of the revolution to defend and guard Islam and the Islamic country.

While congratulating the brothers from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] at the start of the 6th and 7th round of the Command And Staff Collage, he expressed hope that the commander in chief, with his kindness and through his remarks, will take the necessary steps in regard to the Employment Bill for the IRGC and, thus, implement the required refinement.

In another part of his speech, he mentioned that 16 months have passed since Islamic Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and said: The imam, may God's blessings be upon him, and the respected officials have repeatedly said that we are seriously pursuing permanent peace. Now the mad rulers of Iraq claim that the 1975 Algiers accord is dead and claim that Arvand River is inside Iraqi territory. Iraq's claim is not new. However, what is important is the validity of this agreement in international circles. The criminal Ba'th officials should know that they cannot achieve, through diplomatic negotiations, what they have failed to gain by 8 years of war. I request that the Security Council perform its mission and no longer accommodate the violator.

He pointed out: Acceptance of Resolution 598 was a prelude to rebuilding the country. In accordance with the imam's order, the Council for Reconstruction Guidelines was formed. This respected council worked relentlessly to compose the overall guidelines for reconstruction and presented them to the Cabinet. The five-year plan, which will be presented to the Majles in the near future, is based on these guidelines. However, in order to move forward and rebuild what has been destroyed in the war, we require calm, planning, coordination, and a sense of responsibility from all of the people and officials.

Mr Reza'i then congratulated and thanked the government and the president for their ability to solve an important part of the economic problem in the short time that they have been given the responsibility. And, also, for their ability to gain the confidence of the people and attracting their investments in various projects.

He pointed out that the respected leader has said repeatedly that, "our path is the same as that of the late imam and our policy is the same policy of neither East, nor West." And on the anniversary of the takeover of the den of spies he stated that, "we consider America to be arrogant and consider the struggle against arrogance to be a fundamental and Qoranic principal." Also, considering that the president has stated his anger and hatred toward arrogance during various interviews, then there is no room for doubting them. We do not expect approval from world arrogance and the media connected with it. As the imam has said, there are no buyers in this country for their assertions and their customers are few. However, the Islamic nation, at this time, expects that the blessings of freedom in the Islamic Republic are not abused and the seeds of lack of confidence are not spread. The leader of the revolution has also said that weakening the regime and the three branches is sacrilegious. Thank God, the people are aware, in touch with the realities, and will stand up to those who spread poison. The people trust the regime and the government and are hopeful. We are duty-bound to follow the supreme jurisconsult and must keep alive the officials spirit of confidence in their hearts.

The deputy of the people of Shush and Andimeshk added: It is over 1 year that we have been indirectly conveying to the officials the unruly state of management in Khuzestan Province. In the interest of the revolution, we have kept a thorn in our eyes, a bone in our throats, and done no more than continuously and logically avoid the public stating of facts. Now we ask the respected officials, especially the president, to find a solution for Khuzestan Province. Your Excellency Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani! During your tenure in Majles and then later on, you have been aware of the problems, difficulties, and issued related to Khuzestan Province. The respected deputy of the supreme jurisconsult in the province has informed you, the exalted leadership, and, ultimately, the minister of interior about many of the issues. Yours truly—along with several of my colleagues—when informing the respected minister of interior were told by him that, "I do not want to go to hell for others and I intend to create an organization to investigate the issues and problems before giving notice and advice." Nearly 2 months have passed since then and the problems and tensions are increasing daily, and the people's problems are left unsolved. Why isn't something done?

The speaker then pointed out the role of Khuzestan Province in reconstruction—the existence of vast petroleum resources and other characteristics of this province—and its need for strong managers and executives and said: The present respected governor, during his tenure, has demonstrated the level of his capabilities. Most of his efforts have been in the area of political and propaganda issues rather than planning and making use of the province's capabilities.

In conclusion, he gave some advice to the executive officials of the country in regard to his constituency.

Farajullah Afrazadeh, Deputy From Nowshahr and Chalus

Mr Afrazadeh, the deputy of the people of Nowshahr and Chalus, was the second pre-agenda speaker who, in the outset of his speech, talked about the destruction of Mazandaran's forests and said: During the taghut [derogatory reference to the shah and his regime] years many parts of the the thick forests, big and tall trees, were included in the forest plan. Under this plan, 30 to 70 hectares of the forest were carved out and presented to the taqhut's dependents [officials of the shah's regime] who cut down the trees, turned them into industrial wood, and sold them on the market. The land was also sold and its money was transferred out of the country. In this whole affair, some influential and powerful people, without permission, turned parcels of 5 to 10 hectares to citrus gardens. This was done by their so called taking care of the responsible administrator of the time, and the Jungle Management Bureau gave them all that land as exceptions. In view of this situation, the downtrodden and the oppressed who considered the forest to be the shah's garden and the administrator to be his garden-keeper—either at the same time or at the outset of the revolution—carved out parcels of 2 to 3 thousand square meters in order to take advantage of this blessing. However, the administrators consider this a violation and take them to courts, flog them, fine them, burn their 10 to 15-year-old trees and, if they have built a house on the land, raze their homes. There is no one to help them and they have no other recourse than crying and screaming.

He then added: The next part is the destruction of the jungle of this so-called forestation plan under which they cut down big trees and completely level the ground. Then they plant 6 inch needle pines without any commitment to maintain or protect them. Perhaps only one hundred can survive out of a thousand. When we ask the responsible officials, they respond that they are given the budget for deforestation and planting small trees but no budget is allocated for their upkeep. Is it fair that, in such crucial time, the budget of the country be wasted like this?

The speaker then referred to the Forest Exploitation Plan and said: Before the revolution this plan was being implemented by the private sector. After the revolution it was, at first, given to the Construction Jihad and now it is under the control of companies affiliated with the Ministry of Agriculture. At the time of the taghut regime the wood was being sold for 800 tomans per meter. Now the wood is being sold for 5,000 tomans per meter. Now, it is not clear what happens to this money. In addition, these areas must be completely cleaned of the waste, the cut wood, and the saw dust and be prepared for reforestation within a maximum of 1 year from the time of cutting. Regrettably, most of the wood rots there and the wastes are never cleaned. This results in decay, which causes the spread of disease in trees. As a result of this, the Malek Tree is on the verge of extinction and it will spread to other trees. I beseech Dr Kalantari, the respected minister of agriculture, to dispatch several experts—to accompany the deputies from Gilan and Mazandaran—and closely observe the situation and find a solution before it is too late. I cannot believe that the ministry of agriculture—with all these experts in various fields—cannot recognize these problems. I dare say that there must be hidden hands who try deliberately to take away this God-given wealth from the people. I also give notice to the officials of the country to think of a way to save this God-given wealth before it is too late.

Mr Afrazadeh, in continuation of his speech, referred to the problems of inflation and high prices and said:

In the year 66 [21 March 87-20 March 1988] we saw that newspapers, in bold headlines, suddenly announced the arrest of hoarders of medicine and that the scarce drugs discovered will be enough for 17 years use of the whole country. We expected to hear that at least one of them has been punished and the people were so notified. Regretfully nothing happened. At the same time, some anti-government people said that it is all lies and this charade was all started because the imam, in a meeting with deputys of the people, had said that the people must be allowed to participate in their own affairs. We have no news of that medicine or the fate of those hoarders. I beseech the chief of the judicial branch to exert most of his efforts to destroy the economic terrorists. The least punishment for the hoarder and profiteer is, at the present time, execution and confiscation of all his belongings. Brothers! Do not ask me where in Islam the punishment of hoarders and profiteers has been prescribed to be execution. At the present time and under the present circumstances, it is the discussion of military rule which—according to the great imam—is more important than praying and fasting. Is the hypocrite who attempts to assassinate an individual more dangerous or the economic terrorist. The hypocrite would succeed—with great difficulty—to kill one individual resulting in fame and honor for the martyred person and shame and hatred for himself. On the other hand, these low, heartless, and atheist scoundrels cause the demise and poverty of hundreds of innocent people every day. They are the cause of thousands of social ills such as corruption, prostitution, usury, and thievery. Therefore, hoarders and profiteers must be executed with ease of conscious and their belongings must be confiscated to benefit the very same hungry people who are their creation. Execute one or two and see the beautiful results of it in the society, otherwise this social ill can not be cured with soft words and preaching. This is not how a country should be run.

The speaker also asked for clarification of the economic policy of the regime and said: The exalted leadership and heads of the three branches should, by consultation, clarify the economic situation of the Islamic Republic as soon as possible. Because our regime and motto is "neither East, nor West only the Islamic Republic." However, with a thousand regrets, our economy bears the impression of the western style economy. After 10 years into the revolution, it is not right that some claim thus and so about economic activities and others say this and that. If the economy becomes Islamic, there will be no grounds for the appearance of the opportunists' slogans.

Mr Afrazadeh offered two suggestion to the exalted leadership and said:

Those wearing the holy cloak of the clergy who, after the revolution, became officials and, later, set up a foundation or a factory or a company with public funds, must immediately take their hands off these funds and put them at the disposal of the Islamic Republic government, even though they claim not to have and never had any expectation of personal gains and are only using the money for the good of Islam and the revolution. It is because public opinion judges them differently and the harm to the Islamic clergy is far more than the gains these gentlemen claim. Indeed, what does a mullah have to do with chicken farming, deforesting, factory running, etc.... Some respected Friday prayers leaders in some cities have set up elaborate organizations and interfere in all affairs. The suggestion is that, first, a job description should be designed for them so that they function within its framework. Second, assign them one Peykan [a car] and one bodyguard—especially in areas where there are no problems. Third, rotate them every 4 years because some are not men of literature and eventually their statements become repetitious and empty. This causes the prestige of the Friday prayers leaders to decline. Also, send delegations to other cities to find out how many people, with the exception of the military and law enforcement personnel in those cities, participate in their prayers. Of course, thank God, at the present time I have no problem with the Friday prayers leaders of Chalus and Nowshahr and our relation is very good—especially since our great brother Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Esfahani became the Friday prayers leader of Nowshahr many tensions have been cleared.

The deputy of the people of Chalus and Nowshahr then touched on the subject of differences in the Majles and said: During the past 5 and some years that I have been in Majles, I have been witnessing many worrisome moves—which have been the cause of much pain—and that is factionalizing the Majles. Isn't it better to work together hand-in-hand in order to solve the people's problems, instead of forming two or several factions and questioning one another and labeling each other falsely? Didn't the great imam tell us to be together. Let us, for the sake of God and satisfaction of the imam's soul, stop this bickering and do not prepare the ground for the growth of the anti-revolution and the uncommitted. You are the witness that the people who were corrupted before the revolution and even later, before the position of the regime was stabilized, were following various groupings have now grown a beard and hold prayer beads. Some even wear na'layn [the traditional clergy slippers] and, in the shadow of this faction or that, have and will occupy key posts—while laughing at us—and will strike against the revolution. I can say, without hesitation, that followers of the Communist economic regime are in the Majles and neither are followers of Western economic regime. [sentence as published] Do not dig at each other. Also, slogans of being on the side of the downtrodden do not cure any ills. It does not become bread for the hungry nor does a red cent decreases from the wealth of the filthy rich. The people no longer pay attention to our slogans and speeches. As the old saying goes, "It is best to be concerned about bread, since melon is made up of only water."

He warned the minister of interior about job appointments and said: The respected minister of interior has taken note of the fact that some of the employees of the ministry are not fit for the republican regime. Suitable people immediately replace these. The person who is presently in charge in Mazandaran Province was appointed at the time of Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani and Hojjat ol-Eslam Nateq-Nuri. More than 40 Friday prayers leaders wrote a letter to the exalted leader stating that he is not suited for Mazandaran Province. He was removed with the imam's signal. Again, during the tenure of Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi he was appointed to the same post and once again started some instigations that are not, and will never be, suited for an official of the regime. Finally 18 Friday prayers leaders and 13 deputies wrote to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, when he was the speaker of Majles, and later met with the president and the present minister of interior to say that this person is not suitable and nothing has been done so far. These 13 deputies and 18 Friday prayers leaders and the majority of prayers leaders in Mazandaran Province want to know what is the reason for such inaction. Perhaps they are waiting for some murders to take place in several other places. Is it not a lack of attention to the people. Is it right that innocent Mazandaran Province be the subject of such injustice. I beseech the respected minister of interior to settle the situation in this province and appoint a suitable governor for it. Of the 16 deputies from this province, 13 who have signed and the three who did not, all agree that he should not be in Mazandaran. Even brother Taha'i himself came with us when we were given an audience with the president to say that he is not suitable to be the governor. Therefore, we ask that someone from Mazandaran Province be appointed to this post as soon as possible.

Nurollah 'Abedi, Deputy From Behbahan

The last pr-agenda speaker was Mr Nurollah 'Abedi, the deputy of the people of Behbahan, who thanked Mr Karrubi for his recent trip to Khuzestan Province and emphasized that this visit was a blessing for solidarity and more unity between the officials and Friday prayers leaders.

He also thanked Mr Karrubi for participating in the meeting of Friday prayers leaders and said: Regretfully, some in Khuzestan Province still believe that only one person should have the governing authority of this province. The respected Friday prayers leaders of Khuzestan are well aware that they are the ones who would like to play the leading role, and a constructive role, with regard to the affairs of this province. However, from time to time, it is noted that some people without the knowledge of the Friday prayers leaders, officials in the province, or the deputies are the cause of some tensions in Khuzestan. The province that has endured 8 years of war and is now passing through the period of reconstruction, the province whose people have been refugees for 8 years needs more tranquillity, stability, and management. We should not disregard the values of the revolution. Officials should pay attention to the views of prayers leaders and especially his Excellency Mr Jami—the respected Friday prayers leader of Abadan and a member of the Council of Experts—who has played the biggest role in Khuzestan Province as a Friday prayers leader who served in this resistant city of Abadan for 8 years. The people of Khuzestan, the deputies of this state, and the Friday prayers leaders will not allow anyone to control the fate of Khuzestan Province. Khuzestan Province belongs to this country and the existing management in this province must be supported. Voices and calls that are broadcast from this sacred podium will cause mayhem in this province. Why should we weaken the management? Why are we instigating turmoil in this province instead of calm and stability? Why shouldn't we consider the issues of a single statement? Why shouldn't the interest of a war province be considered? Dear Khuzestani brother and sister deputies! Bear in mind that neither I nor anyone else in the country is free from faults. However, we must strengthen the positive attributes of the people and try to correct their weak points. Why should the whole management of a province be destroyed because of, for example, my dislike for an administrator of a village or county. A majority of the Friday prayers leaders of Khuzestan were satisfied and conveyed their gratitude. Then, the Ministry of Interior must pay heed to the views of the Friday prayers leaders.

In another part of his speech, he referred to Resolution 598 and the 1975 Treaty and said: The 1975 Treaty is a valid treaty and we will not take one step back from our declared positions and will not give up even one centimeter of our soil. This is a path that has been determined by the imam, and the present leadership of the revolution also moves in this direction.

Mr 'Abedi then pointed out the people's role in maintaining preparedness and emphasized: At the beginning of Mobilization Week, we declare to all the people that we all must be prepared to defend the borders of our Islamic country. The enemy might attack our sacred land at any time. Not only is Iraq the enemy of Iran today, but also world arrogance is the number one enemy of Iran.

He also said: World arrogance has no commitment to international treaties nor to human values. The only answer to arrogance is force and taking even one step backward or showing weakness will cause the enemy to become more bold and attack what is sacred to Moslems.

In conclusion, the deputy of the people of Behbahan asked that the people fully cooperate with the officials in this regard.

Details of the Discussions

The first agenda item during yesterday's open session of the Majles was the presentation of the double urgency plan to reduce the credit allocated for construction of houses for the Majles employees and deputies.

Messrs Movahhedi-Saveji and Kheyrkhah spoke for and against the double urgency of the plan. Then the double urgency motion was put to a vote and approved.

The second item on the agenda was the double urgency legal plan for correction of sub-article D of Article 51 from the 1368 [21 March 89-20 March 90] budget law which was put to a vote and passed.

The next item on the agenda was the report of the second round of the Education and Training Commission's consultations in regard to encouraging the retired teachers to continue their cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Training. Continuation of discussions about the single item and its articles were postponed until the next session.

The last item on the agenda was the question of some deputies from Dr Najafi, the minister of education and training.

Mr Asghar Nowruzi's Question

Respectfully, in accordance with article 88 of the Constitution, the respected minister of education and training should be invited to come to the Majles at the first possible chance, and answer the following questions: 1) In accordance with the single item to attach one article to the Budget Law of 68 [21 March 89-20 March 89], prohibiting the formation and expansion of organizations, what is the reason for expansion of the Directorate General of the Education and Training of Tehran Province? 2) What is the reason for the dismissal of the respected Director General of the Education and Training for Tehran Province, dear brother Mr Mozaffar—a remarkable character in the revolution, an ever present crusader, brother of three valuable martyrs, a capable manager, wise administrator and trusted by most dedicated educators and majority of Tehran deputies in the Majles? Also, what is the reason for some of the minister's incorrect appointments? 3) What has been the reason for incorrect and unfitting behavior of the minister in the meeting of Director Generals of Tehran Province? Incidentally, during the session on 67/7/5 [27 September 88] a group of deputies have given him adequate notices in regard to the above incident. Also, in accordance with the late imam's decree, this matter has been tabled at the commission. We expect, in view of the discussion by the commission, a logical and documented response without reference to the commission.

Response of the Minister of Education and Training

In the beginning of his statement, Dr Mohammad 'Ali Najafi said: As Mr Nowruzi pointed out—in connection with the question—I have responded to the brothers in two sessions of the commission and have no more to say unless the brothers bring up a new subject which may require more explanation.

The minister of education and training then referred to the explanation of the first question and said: With regard to the first part of the question, it has not been against the law. The Ministry of Education and Training's decision bears the approval of the Management and Personnel Organization. Also, it is indicated in the attached article that educational and several other activities are exempted. It is also reflected in the minutes of the discussions during that session that Dr Nurbakhsh, who was speaking as the reporter of the commission, explicitly stated that, "we prohibited organizational activities that are in addition to these activities." In connection with Education and Training, if so evaluated that organization and management expansion is necessary, there is no problem. Also, the Planning and Budget Commission empowered a panel to investigate which I explained to them, in connection with the decision of the Ministry of Education and Training, and apparently the said panel endorsed that our decision has not been against the law. From an organizational stand point, Tehran Province, with over 2.5 million students, as a Directorate General did not have the capacity to carry this heavy load and, thus, it was a correct decision.

He added: If the deputies from Tehran could kindly see its effects on improving the condition of Tehran's education and training, they would have appreciated this action of the ministry.

Dr Najafi then responded to the second question with regard to appointments and dismissals and said: Article 88 states that, with regard to any matter that a deputy questions a responsible minister about one of his duties, the minister must come and respond. The issue of appointments and dismissals is one of the authorities of the minister. This was brought up in that same commission and perhaps it is best to be asked from the Council of Guardians. Now, what is stated in Majles regulations is a different matter. As for the reasons for the dismissal of Mr Mozaffar—apart from the question that can authorities and responsibilities come under questioning—because I know he will not have a chance to respond from this podium to issues that I may bring up, I do not believe it is right for me to mention publicly the weaknesses he might have had in managing the provinces education. Is it supposed to be that whoever is dismissed must a bad person? No, it is not such. I believe that Mr Mozaffar is a Hezbollahi brother from the family of martyrs. However, for this position, I have concluded that there are other more qualified people whom I have employed.

The minister of education and training then referred to the third part of the question and said: I do not see it befitting the prestige of the Majles, the ministry, and myself to discuss the details of the proceedings of a 5 hour meeting—which some parts of the minutes of it have been tampered. Therefore, if it is necessary, I will give detailed answer to any question by a commission of inquiry.

Mr Nowruzi Repeats Statement With Regard to the Question

Mr Asghar Nowruzi repeated his and the other deputies' question and called the minister of training and education's decision to form a Tehran Province department contrary to the law.

In this connection the minister did not present any positive document to prove that his decision was backed by authorization.

He also defended Mr Mozaffar in the position of Director General of Education and Training for Tehran Province and said: Mr Mozaffar is a dear brother who has been tested in executive positions, during the past 10 years, and all Director Generals from across the country know him very well. As the respected minister is duty-bound, in accordance with principal 133 of the Constitution, to uphold his legal duties to the best of his ability, the same applies to Majles deputies to supervise the affair of the country because he is responsible to the people, law, and the blood of martyrs to report any faults he sees.

The Repeated Explanations of Dr Najafi

Dr Najafi once again responded and, in connection with the third part of the question, stated that the commission of inquiry should investigate those matters. In connection with brother Mozaffar and the present Director General for Tehran the minister of education and training said: Our brother stated that Mr Mozaffar has been approved by all committed educators in Tehran and across the country. On what basis and in accordance with what type of statistical method, scientific or otherwise, have you asked the educators about Mr Mozaffar and they have approved him? Based on my information, the present Director General has a higher approval rating by educators of Tehran Province. From the view point of being a hezbollahi, a member of a martyr's family (his father having been martyred), and his performance in such a short time, he has shown how independently and outside of political and factional boundaries he can perform. Have you been able to prove this point or did you present any scientific standard by which the public opinion of educators have been determined to approve of Mr Mozaffar?

In conclusion, Dr Najafi referred to the point that Mr Nowruzi in his statements had said that, "He sees his minister to be the role model for 13 million students." and said:

I am but a servant and executive of the Education and Training organization. God forbid that one day people like me become role models for students across the country. The role models are on a much higher plateau. Neither I claim to be this nor you should think that such is being publicized. Mr Hashemian, after the explanation of the minister of education and training, asked Mr Nowruzi and other signatories of the question if they are satisfied with these explanations. Mr Nowruzi requested that the question be referred to the Commission for Investigation of Questions.

The Majles will hold an open session this morning.

*Report on Proceedings of 29 Nov Majles Session

90OI0079A Tehran RESALAT in Persian
30 Nov 89 pp 5, 4

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles convened under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi, and then continued chaired by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi.

During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, deputies Sa'id Mohammad Ha'eri, Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Mohammad Rashidian, and Bolukian spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers and the detailed proceedings.

Mr Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, Deputy From Dehloran and Mehran

Mr Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, from the Dehloran and Mehran electoral district, was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's public Majles session.

He began his talk with a greeting to the imam's lofty spirit, and then said: We must strive to preserve the imam's thought and line, and we must strive at the social level to make dominant the Islam of Mohammad, which entails building a society based on just relations under the leadership of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i.

The speaker commemorated Mobilization Week, and said: Today we are witnessing broad and extensive changes on the international scene. The 100-year wall of communism has collapsed, and the aware and oppressed Muslims of Palestine, Lebanon, and Muslim revolutionaries in other nations have come into the political arenas and have begun working to defeat imperialism, and all of these have sprung from the great Islamic revolution of Iran. Therefore, God willing, the dear planners of the Islamic Republic will plan and act on the international scene in such a way that in the near future we will see the dawn of victory for the Muslims of the world, along with the sunset of their strangulation.

Mr Ha'eri discussed the five-year plan. He said: While the Islamic Republic of Iran is experiencing the decade of reconstruction, we are perhaps in the nation's first economic, social, and cultural five-year plan in which all resources will be mobilized to transform the existing situation to the one desired. We therefore expect that in the explanation of the general policies of the government of Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, just as he himself wishes, planning should be done to help the nation's deprived and backward areas.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr Ha'eri called upon the Ministry of Education and Training to pay the back wages due to the Ministry of Education employees of Saleh Abad of Mehran, in view of the regulations approved by the Council of Ministers. In view of the distance involved and the serious problems for the university student sisters sent from the Province of Ilam to educational occupations at the Martyr Raja'i Teacher Training Center by the Ministry of Education and Training, he asks that they be quickly transferred to the Ilam Teacher Training Center or to provinces adjacent to Ilam. It is expected that the Ministry of Education and Training will exercise the necessary care in selecting young applicants for employment, in view of the region's tribal and ethnic constituency, that piety and justice will be among the criteria for research and selection, and that the legal rights of the people will not be violated. Likewise, it is expected that greater study will be given to precise Islamic criteria in appointments and dismissals to preserve unity in the very sensitive organization of the Ministry of Education and Training.

In conclusion, Mr Ha'eri discussed the neither war nor peace situation. He said: As you know, what the decadent Ba'thist government wanted and had its heart set on was the defeat of the revolution and the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, this vain thought was turned to despair through the concern of the great nation of Iran. Now that we have accepted Security Council Resolution 598, the Iraqi regime is balking at implementing it and wants to get in the peace agreement what it did not get in the war in order to be able to explain to the Iraqi nation its imposition of war on Islamic Iran. As a representative of the border people of the Province of Ilam, I declare that we want the implementation of the provisions of Security Council Resolution 598 in the framework of the 1975 Algiers Accord, and we will not back away at any price from this clear, decisive, and religiously and secularly lawful right. Mr de Cuellar and the Security Council must make the necessary arrangements as quickly as possible to implement Security Council Resolution 598, for the history-making nation of Iran will tolerate no more injustice or idle talk from the Ba'thist regime of Iraq. Today in this sacred place I declare that we are ready to defend Islam and all the soil of Islamic Iran with our lives.

Mr Rashidian, Deputy From Abadan

The second pre-agenda speaker was Mr Rashidian, representative of the people of Abadan. He referred to Mobilization Week at the beginning of his talk, and said:

The order to form the mobilization and the 20-million-man army of the great revolution was a blessing that was influential not only in Islamic Iran but in all the Muslim and oppressed nations of the world, and it has spurred to action those who are oppressed and thirsty for freedom. The mobilization has shown the oppressed and deprived nations how, through reliance on the Islam of Mohammad and despising imperialism and the rule of force and domination, one can, armed only with faith and the words 'God is Great' one can bring aggressors who are armed to the teeth to their knees. Even now the export of the revolution and the mobilization spirit are frightening and destabilizing the core of imperialism and the rule of force and domination in oppressed Palestine, Afghanistan, Lebanon, and the nations of Asia and Africa, and are rapidly revealing the loathsome face of the Great Satan and international Zionism to the people of the world. Today there is a mobilization among all the nations, masses, and nations, and everywhere.

He then added: Mobilization is not just for war, armed defense, and use at the time of enemy attack. The spirit of mobilization and revolution must be kept in all the stages and periods of the revolution, whether wartime or peacetime, and this depends on the life, continuation, and spread of the Islam of Mohammad (Peace Be upon Him). Therefore, it is necessary to form and teach the support and strengthening of the mobilization and to establish resistance cells. On this basis, a specific suggestion is that in addition to keeping the mobilization active and using their esteemed and valued experience, all the armed forces, the police, the army, the revolutionary guards, the komitehs, the sheriff's offices, and gendarmerie should use mobilization forces as needed, and employ them. 2 - If we want to preserve the revolution and have it continue, we must pay attention to the problems of mobilization and solve them decisively and without narrowmindedness. 3 - With their crippling and complicated regulations, the administrative offices must not leave at loose ends and disappointed the mobilization members who are seeking work or who are doing development and agricultural work seeking to form cooperatives. Despite the fact that the Majles has produced relatively valuable legislation to support the mobilization and solve their problems, unfortunately these enactments have not yet been able to solve any problems in the administrative offices due to the administrative complexities and a few acts of mischief. 4 - The raising of difficult issues in the media and the questioning of 8 years of war and sacred defense by dubious or transparent elements is the beginning of a reactionary movement. The writing of articles under the heading 'Point' has caused pain in the hearts of the brave members of the mobilization and the Partisans of the Hezbollah people. The promotion of a culture of ease, corruption, monopolization, high prices, and nonrevolutionary tunes are all capable of eroding the revolutionary spirit of the mobilization. 5 - The eviction of combatants, martyr families, war heroes, members of the mobilization and war refugees from their homes by the courts and prosecutors and turning over these homes to wealthy people, some of whom are exiled people with an agenda who have returned some time ago, or who have obtained the eviction orders by hiring lawyers and spending huge sums of money, causes irreparable damage to the morale of the sincere combatants and members of the mobilization.

Mr Rashidian then emphasized the Iraqi regime's obstruction in the peace talks. He said: The combatant forces and the mobilization cannot witness for long the occupation of some of the nation's sensitive areas by the enemy. The failure to accept the Algiers Accord and inattention to Security Council Resolution 598 shows the evil greed of Saddam 'Aflaqi and world-devouring America, and will lead to a long war and consequently a lack of security in the region. Those who rule by force and aggression will not abandon their thoughts of aggression and domination until they feel the hot bullets of the oppressed people from oppressed nations in their chests.

Elsewhere in his talk, the speaker discussed the Peace and Friendship Cup soccer match in Kuwait. He said: Another matter is sound, proper and calculated planning in the matter of sports, especially soccer. This must be appropriate and coordinated with the values of the revolution and in the spirit of the mobilization of the people who are active in affairs, so that matches such as the Kuwaiti soccer game and the so-called Peace and Friendship Cup and that exasperating situation will not be repeated.

The Abadan deputy also discussed help given to the Iraqi regime by the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian regimes during the imposed war and the crimes of the Saudi family. He also discussed the matter of reconstruction, and said: There are now about 56,000 housing and commercial units and 30,000 housing units in Khorramshahr, at a cost of approximately 40 billion tomans. We want these credits, God willing, with a government proposal and Majles approval, to be increased.

He then defended the governor-general of Khuzestan. He said: The respected governor-general has been praised by most of the Friday imams, especially His Holiness Ayatollah Jami, because he was truly among the active students following the imam's line who occupied the spy nest, an act his holiness the imam called the second revolution. Mr Mirdamadi is a pious and religious man who does whatever he can. He fought throughout the revolution and had a record of resistance and following the imam's line before the revolution. Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi also visited the province and saw the situation first hand and gave his confirmation. God willing, we expect His Excellency to report what he saw and heard to the leader, along with what he saw at the meeting of Friday imams.

Elsewhere in his talk, Mr Rashidian addressed himself to the minister of education and training. He said: He must make use of the experienced and distinguished partisans of God who worked while studying, and who worked their fingers to the bone in classes, and he must strictly avoid the removal of experienced and revolutionary forces. As an old hand at teaching with 29 years of work experience, I say to him that the Ministry of Education and Training is no place where people can be brought in from the outside and employed. He must make use of sincere, committed, and experienced personnel, and those who have worked in class. I also remind the minister of petroleum of the promises he has made and ask that he act quickly to turn over the houses of government workers in Abadan.

Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, Deputy From Ahvaz

The third pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Ahmad Musavi, the Ahvaz deputy, who discussed the management problems in Khuzestan Province. He said:

Speaking of the people of Khuzestan, his holiness the imam said that Khuzestan has paid its debt to Islam, and this is the greatest encouragement yet given by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the self-sacrificing people of the land of Khuzestan. Today it is the turn of the officials. The people are watching them to see what they will do. The officials must not permit the dear people of Khuzestan to be sacrificed to political games, and must not allow the same people who were the nation's shield and naturally bore the brunt of the war damage to endure the weakness of the province's management after suffering these damages. Some people want to conceal their own weaknesses and faults by sowing discord, and they want to embroil the sincerity and honesty of the people of Khuzestan in factional and group disputes in order to be able to stay in power a few more days. If, God forbid, they should be successful and are able to entangle the people in discord and political conflict, the damage will not only affect Khuzestan but the entire revolution and nation Those who portray the many problems of Khuzestan as personal, group, or political problems are simply lying, and their essence has become more obvious to the people of Khuzestan. What is amazing is these individuals who use the terminology of the mini-groups at times. The deviating mini-groups say of the vice-regency of the chief theologian [velayat-e faqih] that it is despotic, dictatorial, and other things. Yet they say themselves that in Khuzestan the government should be turned over to one person, meaning dictatorship and despotism.

He then added: Who wants to cast a shadow over the fate of Khuzestan Province? Who is that person? If you are telling the truth, why don't you name him? If it isn't true, it isn't. It is lies and accusations, which is sinful. If you believe in resurrection day, and if you consider the report of conditions in Khuzestan by a crusading member of the mobilization, fully known to the people of Khuzestan throughout the days of the war, meaning the great representative of the chief theologian in Khuzestan, an obligation, then if he does not report on the conditions in the area, he is not fulfilling his religious obligation, and then the name will not be without meaning. If he is not forthcoming only to protect the reputation of persons in one instance and if he expressed his views to the blessed chief theologian, on what basis and according to what principle do you call this a mistake? Who are you to define the responsibilities of a representative of the chief theologian before this sacred tribune? Be assured, we will never permit you to sow discord among the genuine and combative clergy of Khuzestan with baseless talk. The Friday imams of Khuzestan are so united that they cannot be divided into a majority and a minority because of your mistaken and deceitful decisions.

He then addressed himself to the minister of the interior. He said: Respected minister of the interior! Dear brother! Your Excellency Mr Nuri! The chief problems of Khuzestan have been conveyed to you and some of the respected officials very privately and respectfully through various means, and I have never been willing to raise them before the people or even in the Majles. What will we do when they themselves raise the issues? To defend the people of Khuzestan briefly I will give you a brief summary of the management problems in Khuzestan for you and the respected deputies: 1) Is it right that the province that was the center of the war should go for 10 months without a reconstruction official? Shouldn't the people be asking why reconstruction credit was less and at a small level throughout the war? Reconstruction needs an official, but is it right that with the beginning of reconstruction and a specific reconstruction atmosphere following the acceptance of Security Council Resolution 598, there should be no official? Would the governor-general be kind enough to allow joint management of the province and reconstruction affairs? Raising these problems to the management of Khuzestan is truly aimed at casting a shadow over the province.

2) Isn't the lack of stability of management, only one example of which is the fact that in less than 1 year five district governors have been dismissed and appointed, a weakness? Our question is, if they are weak, why do they appoint them, and if they are strong, why do they dismiss them? These problems are raised in factional disputes. It is strange that people accept these weakness in private meetings, then come and praise them before this tribune.

3) Are the problems of the province and the problems of reconstruction so minor that they can be handled with a governor-general and a few deputies who are masters-degree students in Tehran who have to study several days a week and then commute? If we want to put one person in charge of the Province of Khuzestan with problems like this, what has happened to fairness?

4) I call upon the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of the Interior to compare statements to the press concerning reconstruction with the measures that have been taken in Khuzestan and judge for itself. Unfortunately, without attention to the services and efforts of the dear brothers who have served and sacrificed throughout the war in Khuzestan, some people are bringing a few people under question or they are saying that the president, all the deputies, and the Friday imams are happy with the management of the province. I do not know if these people are authorized by everyone to make erroneous and improper statements. If they have such authorization, I congratulate them; let God be the witness that the services that were rendered during the war are to be praised. Of course, our dear ones! We are truly entangled, and there are indeed weaknesses. How can I advise that they should not interpret these things as factional problems?

At the conclusion of his remarks, Mr Musavi asked the Ministry of the Interior to look into these problems.

Ahmad Bolukian, Deputy From Kashmer

Mr Ahmad Bolukian, Kashmer deputy, was the final pre-agenda speaker. During his speech he praised the brave and heroic members of the mobilization and discussed the 52nd anniversary of the martyrdom of the great politician and indefatigable theologian His Holiness Ayatollah Seyyed Hasan Modarres. He said:

What praise is better than that of his holiness the imam (may Almighty God be pleased with him) for Modarres? At a time when the right to life had been taken away from the oppressed nation of Iran, and the field of battle, bullying, and abuse created throughout Iran by Reza Khan and his filthy mercenaries was soaked to the elbows with the blood of the dear liberated ones of the nation, the clergymen, scholars, and various classes of people, this physically weak scholar, with a frail body and a great spirit filled with pure faith and truth and with a tongue like the sword of Heydar Karar, stood before them and shouted the truth, revealed crimes, made it difficult for Reza Khan to operate, and blackened his days until he sacrificed his pure soul for dear Islam and the noble nation and was martyred in exile at the hands of the oppressive shah's devils and joined his pure ancestors. Truly, our great martyr the late Modarres, whose title is brief and short, was a bright star over the darkness of a nation so darkened by the monarchy's oppression that anyone who did not understand that time has not understood the value of this exalted personality. This was the high point of the imam's comments (may Almighty God be pleased with him).

He then added: During his stay in Najaf, Martyr Modarres, due to poverty and hard times, devoted Thursdays and Fridays every week solely to work in order to meet his expenses until, after 7 years of continuous study, he achieved the rank of ejtehad [one who has independent discretion in matters of religious jurisprudence]. Martyr Modarres was once attacked and wounded in an attempted assassination by Reza Khan's agents, and in answer to a conciliatory telegram from Reza Khan, he said: "To the displeasure of his enemies, Modarres has not yet died." After Martyr Modarres was arrested and deposed, Reza Khan sent him a message saying "I will kill you in such a way that you will join your accursed infidels." Modarres answered: "Wherever I die, my grave will be a shrine, wherever you die there will be neither water nor anything that grows." Ultimately, on the night of the 27th of the blessed month of [not given] in 1317 [November, 1939] Reza Khan's bloodthirsty devils attacked Martyr Modarres's home in Kashmer and martyred him, and since then the resting place of Martyr Modarres has been a shrine visited by the lovers of the rights and truth of Muslims.

Concluding his remarks, the Kashmer deputy submitted memos to the appropriate officials about solving the problems in his electoral district.

Details of the Proceedings

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the first item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session was the proposed law to amend Paragraph D Note 51 of the National Budget Law of the year 1368 [21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990], returned from the respected Council of Guardians. The final paragraph of this double-urgency motion, which was approved on 8/3/1368 [25 October 1989] ran into a problem with the Council of Guardians, and the council announced its opinion as follows: The final part of Note 15 Paragraph D, in that the credit decrease arising from the formation of the aforementioned municipalities is not procured, is in violation of Principle 75 of the Constitution.

With regard to this, deputies Majd-Ara and Sadiqi proposed the following credit:

"The credit reductions arising from the formation of the municipalities are deleted to the end of these two lines. Note 2 remains." After comments from Mr Majd-Ara and Behzadian as opponents and from Mr Ha'eri as a supporter, and after the government representative announced his support, this proposal was put to a vote and was approved by the deputies.

Second Agenda Item

The second agenda item was the report from the Second Legal Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the bill to reform the Legal Procedures Law for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran enacted 2/22/1364 [12 May 1985] and Article 1 combining the Army Judicial Organization with the Ministry of Justice enacted 8/1/1368 [23 October 1989] and 4/1/1368 [22 June 1989]. The contents of the bill are as follows:

Article 1: Articles 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of the Armed Forces Justice Law enacted 2/22/1364 [12 May 1985] and its notes are changed as follows:

A) Article 3: The qualifications for forming military courts one and two and their competences and the instances requiring that files be sent to the Supreme Court are like the qualifications for penal courts one and two.

B) Article 4: Priority for appointment to judicial posts in the military courts and tribunals goes to legal specialists with military qualifications.

J) Article 5: Whenever the president or his representative asks the chief of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization or the chief of the judicial organization in the relevant precinct for a consultant, the chief is required to send a consultant. In this event, before the court rules the consultant must carefully study the case and announce his detailed and documented opinion in writing as quickly as possible.

D) Article 6: At the provincial centers, armed forces judicial organizations will be formed composed of a military court, and in municipalities where needed a military court district will be formed. Approval of these organizations and the designation of the number of subsidiary courts and tribunals will be the responsibility of the chief of the judicial power.

H) Article 8: In provinces where the case load does not justify the formation of a judicial organization according to the recommendation of the chief of the judicial organization and the approval of the chief of the judicial organization, an independent military court two with the same authority as independent legal court two for penal affairs will be formed.

V) Article 9: Military and police forces, as recommended by the chief of the judicial organization, must transfer or assign military legal specialists and the personnel needed by this organization.

R) Article 10: The chief of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization is also chief of branch one of central military court one in order to maintain unity of procedure in supervision and investigation in the courts and military courts throughout the country, and if necessary he may have a sufficient number of deputies.

Note: Where necessary, and with the approval of the judge and the investigating judge in the court or tribunal hearing the case, the chief of the Armed Forces Judicial Organization may transfer the case from the court hearing the case to a comparable court in another province.

Article 2: Notes 3, 4 and 7 of Article 1 combining the Army Judicial Organization with the Ministry of Justice are annulled and replaced by the following notes:

Note 3: The organization's budget will be given each year in the national budget on a separate line.

Note 4: All assets and holdings, movable or not movable, belonging to the former armed forces judicial authorities (the Army Justice Office, the Islamic Revolutionary Army Court, the Revolutionary Guard Public, and Revolutionary Court) along with pertinent credit from the army, the revolutionary guard, and other forces and organizations will be detached and transferred to this organization.

J) Note 7: The organization's administrative arrangements will be made by the minister of justice, the chief of the Administrative and Employment Affairs Organization, and the chief of the Judicial Organization, and will be approved by the chief of the judicial power.

After the approval of the above articles a vote was taken and this bill was approved.

Third Agenda Item

The third agenda item was the report from the Second Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the bill to amend Article 60 and to append two notes and to amend Article 61 of the Public Service Obligation Law enacted in Mehr 1363 [23 September-22 October 1984] and append a note to it.

Articles 60 and 61 of the Public Service Obligation Law are amended as follows:

Article 60: Those who commit acts such as forging identification cards, stamps, signatures, cards of completed service, exemption cards, using the identification cards of others, exercising influence, bearing false witness, giving false testimony, concealing the truth, taking bribes, or deceiving an eligible individual to obtain an exemption for themselves or others from compulsory public service will be investigated in the competent court, and, in view of the circumstances and resources of the guilty party, the number of offenses and the number of penalties and reprimands, and the threat, will be disqualified for government service for 1 to 10 years, the bribe will be confiscated as a penalty, and they will be sentenced to 6 months to 3 years imprisonment.

Note 2: Funds paid as bribes will be confiscated as penalties, and whenever it is proven that the person paying a bribe was forced to do so to obtain his rights, the funds or monies paid as bribes will be returned to him.

Article 61: Personnel in the Public Service Office, the military and police forces, the affiliated government organizations and institutions, and the representatives of the councils and Islamic societies, in the event they commit the crimes mentioned in Article 60, in addition to being disqualified permanently from government service, in view of the circumstances and resources of the guilty party, the number of offenses, and the number of penalties and reprimands, and the threat, will be sentenced to penal imprisonment of 3 to 7 years.

Whenever, according to current law, the commission of the acts mentioned in the two articles 60 and 61 have other names, in that case the penalties for those names will be ordered. The above amended articles and notes were approved after a vote was taken.

Fourth Agenda Item

The fourth agenda item was the report from the First Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission concerning the bill to close cultural teaching and research institutions and units which have been formed and are being formed without legal authorization. With regard to this Mr Ha'erizadeh spoke in opposition and Mr Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in favor. The entire motion was passed by the Majles after being put to a vote.

Fifth Agenda Item

The fifth agenda item was the report from the Second Legal and Judicial Affairs Commission concerning a motion to require the evacuation of buildings owned by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and universities which are occupied by other ministries and organizations. The first article reads as follows:

Article 1: All legal persons, whether legal persons, ministries, government institutions, organizations or officials, and municipalities who are occupying sites, buildings, student dormitories, rental buildings, and property of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and its affiliated institutions and universities and research centers (whether medical or non-medical) must evacuate the aforementioned sites no later than 6 months from the enactment of this bill and return them to the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education. With regard to the revolutionary guards and the war refugees, if approved by the Provincial Procurement Council the above grace period is extended to a maximum of 1 year. Otherwise, at the request of the aforementioned ministries and institutions, the local public court must hear the case on a priority basis, order the evacuation of the aforementioned site and confiscate the buildings. This is an absolute and compulsory order.

Note 1: In cases where the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education have assigned by contract the aforementioned buildings, sites, and properties to private persons or institutions, action will be taken in accordance with the provisions of the contracts.

Note 2: Violation of this law will be treated as unlawful confiscation of government property.

The above Article 1 and notes were put to a vote by the Majles and approved.

Final Agenda Item

The sixth and final item on the agenda of yesterday's public Majles session was the proposal to combine the Martyr Ayatollah Beheshti Organization of Qom with the the Martyr Foundation, with double-urgency status. With regard to the double-urgency status, Mr Movahhedi-Saveji spoke in opposition and Mr Saleh-Abadi spoke in favor. The double-urgency status mentioned was put to a vote and approved.

At the conclusion of yesterday's session, receipt of the question from Hamadan deputy Mr Gholam Hoseyn Aqa'i to Dr Fazel, Minister of Health and Treatment, was acknowledged. The next Majles session was set for 8:00 a.m. Monday.

*Report on 3 December Majles Session

90OI0078A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Dec 89 p 5

[Text] Legal and Majles Department—Yesterday morning the Majles held a public session under the chairmanship of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Karrubi. During this session, after readings of verses from the glorious words of God, Deputies Dr Raja'i Khorasani, Tehran deputy, and Movahhedi-Saveji, Saveh deputy, spoke as pre-agenda speakers. Then the memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials were read, and the Majles began its agenda.

Printed below are the remarks of the pre-agenda speakers, memos from the deputies to the nation's executive officials, and details on the proceedings.

Dr Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Deputy From Tehran

The first pre-agenda speaker was Dr Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, Tehran deputy. Explaining that his talk would pertain to the subject of speech, or freedom of speech, he said:

Freedom of the pen and freedom of speech is one of the very, very valuable blessings that have been gained thanks to the Islamic revolution, and today our press, our newspapers, and our speakers enjoy its blessings. Respect for this freedom demands that our nation's respected press observe the limits of freedom, and never use freedom to sacrifice freedom.

He added: In the days 2 or 3 months ago when I discussed our foreign relations and gave my views on our relations with Saudi Arabia, a torrent of insults against world imperialism and the region's reactionary mercenaries erupted in the press, which is quite natural. The fact that from the revolution to this day our people have always repeated and continue to repeat the slogans "death to America", "death to the Soviet Union" and "death to the hypocrites and Saddam" like litanies after their prayers is something that shows our revolutionary anger. A point I want to make, however, is that in the midst of these insults I myself was not always left unscathed, and that the writers and speakers, who had thrown off the restraints of speech, did not hesitate to deal unkindly with me.

Dr Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani stated that he had decided not to defend himself or engage in abuses, and he noted that our press is one of the sacred and valued things gained since the revolution, and we must maintain respect for it. The press of the Islamic Republic must be the most reliable, truthful, and respectable newspapers in the eyes of our people and in the eyes of foreign readers. God forbid that matters be reflected in the newspaper that diminish or destroy my confidence in the press as a Majles deputy. This is the greatest oppression against the nation's press and freedom. I ask the owners of the newspapers and the writers not to do anything that would make our press lose its national and international confidence and respect.

Continuing his remarks, he also said: My comments are particularly directed to those who have tried to diminish, exaggerate, or censor my statements to the press in order to read into them the idea that someone has backed away from his position. Press interviews given by a Majles deputy are his own responsibility. The owners of the newspapers must convey them to the people truthfully. They must try not to change them in whatever way they like. This is neither a service to the people nor a service to the press.

He noted: Take note that in other nations of the world censorship is applied as a matter of government policy, but in our country, God knows and you know as well that the government has absolutely no intention of censorship. Neither the president nor the government officials recommend this, but sometimes it is seen that some newspaper owners, out of personal motives or because of the political liberties taken, may sometimes censor an article or an interview. This is improper conduct. Where the government, the people, the revolution and the nation's general policies have provided maximum freedom of speech and press for our speakers and writers, what need is there for a group of people, because of their special political tendencies, to take it upon themselves to censor an interview or a speech? We live under conditions where it is difficult for us to obtain paper for the children in our grade schools and secondary schools, and under such conditions, if the sacred environment of our newspapers is to be given over to slander, lies, and censorship, this is truly great oppression and against freedom.

He discussed two articles he worked upon diligently and sincerely and submitted to a newspaper for publication, and complained that they were not published despite the publication of articles that in some way insulted him in the area of foreign policy. He added:

Is it a good thing to insult a Majles deputy? Isn't it so that they could have written documented and pertinent articles? That is, instead of attacking someone they ought to discuss, study, and critique the subject and add to the political growth and knowledge of the people. What is the need of avoiding a good thing? Praise God, they have paper and pen, and no one is bothering them. Very well, let them write. There is no harm in this.

Elsewhere in his talk, he said: My colleagues, in their own talks, and of course they are free to say whatever they wish, both in and especially outside of the Majles, apparently deal with our foreign policy matters as if they were slogans with which to please their electoral districts.

He also noted that MacFarlane's trial was held on American television, and that some of the affairs of these officials were presented privately. He said: You know that in America, England, and various parts of the world, they may cut each other to pieces, but they never present their political affairs as slogans in the press and flail this side or that side with them in a way that can be utilized by rival or enemy nations. Absolutely, we who have revolutionary sensibilities and passion must act far more carefully than they do. You can discuss foreign policy with one another as much as you wish, but there is no need for us to raise issues so that our enemies will be able to track policies and then be able to make use of special political levers that we ourselves have given them. What need is there for them to know who dislikes whom, who likes whom, who supports whom, or who opposes whom? Especially in the area of foreign policy, this is absolutely not in our interest.

At the conclusion of his talk, the Tehran deputy said: I plead that the deputies will not make foreign policy matters a pretext for discussions and slogans of this kind. Of course it is necessary that these gentlemen also definitely avoid making insulting major speeches against their own colleagues. I try never to insult my colleagues, and I hope that others will also observe this point.

'Ali Movahhedi-Saveji, Deputy From Saveh

The second and final pre-agenda speaker was Mr Movahhedi-Saveji, Saveh deputy. During his talk he commemorated Mobilization Week, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Modarres, and he also discussed the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mirza Kuchek Khan Jangali. He said: On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Mirza Jangali a seminar was held on the initiative of the respected officials and respected and believing residents. I praise the people of Fuman and the officials of this seminar, and I offer congratulations and condolences to the entire Islamic nation on the martyrdom of the believing, militant clergyman and seminary student who crusaded for God.

Elsewhere in his talk he discussed the stability of the revolution and the rule of law in the Islamic government. He said:

With the passage of more than 10 years since the triumph of our Islamic revolution we have now gained important experience in the various areas of domestic and foreign policy, defense matters, and economic, social, and cultural affairs, and we are compiling and putting into practice the clear and specific policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran as well as its programs, with the respected officials of the three branches of the nation's government and with coordination and unity of speech. In my view, one of the great dangers facing the Islamic revolution is the cultural attack on the Islamic revolution by its domestic and foreign enemies. The nation's officials, insiders, and planners are to some extent aware of the enemy's aggressive plots with regard to defense and military matters, but we have a policy of national independence with regard to stopping foreign plots, and after the revolution every kind of enemy political, economic, and military domination was really prevented in the Islamic Republic of Iran, but unfortunately with regard to cultural matters in my view very little attention is given or importance assigned. Books and writings in various languages are written in the nations of the East and the West and then written, published, and sold domestically by elements affiliated with the East and the West, the leftists, the rightists, the monarchists, the Freemasons and others. With all regret, I must say that we have not been very successful writing, translating, and compiling good and positive books, and we have not been as successful as we could and should be in preventing the cultural assault by the lackeys of the East and the West and the imperialism of the East and the West within the country.

He then added: I am submitting a report to the respected Majles speaker as well as to the president, asking that in the Islamic Republic of Iran we see that these kinds of problems are strictly prevented. There are more than ten books in this country which have been written by supporters of Russian as well as Chinese communism and put on the market, and they are really alienating the youth of this nation from orthodoxy, religion, the revolution, the demand for freedom, independence, national identity, and their own personality. Among these books is one that directly insults a prominent prophet. Unfortunately, however, this book has been printed several times in this country and is available to individuals even now. Likewise, with regard to the books that the nationalist liberals have written and published in this country, several examples are mentioned in my report. These are books dealing with our past, especially contemporary history and the last half century in Iran, and they validate dependent forces, Reza Khan and others. With regard to the committed revolutionary forces, however, and those seeking freedom and independence, they are denounced in mysterious ways. The books that are written and printed by the monarchists today in this country are by the same Americanized monarchists and supporters of criminal America. The same goes for other books about Freemasonry. Filthy and dependent elements have written these books, and they have praised the professors, teachers, religious leaders, and those who brought the filthy school of Freemasonry to this nation. I am surprised. In an Islamic government, shouldn't books be stopped that deviate, books that distort history, Islam, the revolution, and truth? I mention this point here for the attention of the Ministry of Islamic Guidance and the government of Mr Rafsanjani.

Mr Movahhedi-Saveji then praised the realistic methods of Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani's government in economic areas, and said: Since the time that Mr Rafsanjani, this militant clergyman brother, this old friend of Islam, the revolution, and the late imam (may God be pleased with him), took the reins of executive power, praise God, by adopting realistic methods in various areas, especially in economic areas, they have been successful, and among the signs of the successful fight against high prices and inflation is the fact that scarce goods and goods that were quite scarce at the government price have become common in these few years and at the free market price for the goods, but at back-breaking prices. However, we are in no way happy or satisfied with these levels, and we do not praise ourselves. We believe that, God willing, Mr Rafsanjani, with his policies, will deliver the nation's economy from its current condition. He must fight seriously against the problems of high prices, inflation, the huge volume of currency in circulation, and the enormous profits and incomes being pocketed by bloodsucking capitalists and criminal elements. With the help of God our work will reach the point that one day when it is no longer necessary goods and other items will not be rationed, and goods will be available to the people in abundant quantities everywhere in the country at just and officially specified prices.

In conclusion, the Saveh deputy added: While thanking the judicial power, I ask it to deal harshly with hoarders, price-gougers, bribe-takers, and corrupt people who are fanning the flames of administrative and ethical corruption in the nation. I do not want the people to be overwhelmed by these issues; the officials themselves must take hold of these areas of corruption and cut them off at the roots.

Details of the Proceedings

The first item on the agenda was the motion to settle Afghan refugees in camps and hotels and supervise them.

After comments from one of those submitting this proposal (Mr Shahraki), deputies Tehrani, Movahhedi-Saveji, and Ha'erizadeh spoke in opposition and deputies Seyyed Hashem Bani-Hashemi, and Nateq-Nuri spoke in favor. Then 15 deputies requested tabling the motion for 6 months, which was not approved. Then a proposal was made to strip the motion of its single-urgency status, and after explanations from Mr Akrami as one of the signers, deputy Shahraki spoke in opposition and deputy Hoseyni-Shahrudi spoke in favor. Then a vote was taken and the motion to strip the motion of its single-urgency status was approved.

Second Agenda Item

The second and final agenda item was the proposed law to turn over Martyr Dr Beheshti Hospital of Qom to the Martyr of the Islamic Revolution Foundation and to create procedures to procure the manpower and health care personnel needed by the heath care and treatment units of the Martyr of the Islamic Revolution Foundation.

After comments from Mr Karrubi as one of the signers of the motion, deputies Movahhedi-Saveji, Feda'i, Rahbari-Amlashi, and Rowhani-Nia spoke in opposition and deputies Rah-Chamani, Qoreyshi, Khalkhali, and Qomi spoke in favor. Then the entire motion was approved by a strong majority of deputies after comments from the government's representative and from Mr Karrubi as the one presenting the motion and a foundation official.

The Majles will hold a public session today at 8 a.m.

The Deputies Memos to the Nation's Executive Officials

- Mr Marvaji, Borujerd deputy: To the minister of commerce, procure construction materials to rebuild bombed areas of Borujerd.
- Mr Taha'i, Tonekabon and Ramsar deputy: To the president's first deputy, the Council of Ministers, and the Plan and Budget Organization, expedite the establishment of rural districts in regions Three Thousand, Two Thousand, and Estekur, and the construction of educational complexes in the above areas.
- Mr Nowruzi, Molayer deputy: To the minister of petroleum, procure kerosene for homes and provide pipe and connectors and household natural gas-burning equipment at government prices in Malayer.
- Deputies Shoja'i and Mirdamadi of Sari: To the minister of commerce, procure construction materials in the Municipality of Sari. To the Economic Mobilization Staff, increase the flour ration in the Province of Mazandaran, especially Sari.
- Mr Malek-Asa, Malavi deputy: To the minister of industries, expedite start-up of the refrigerator factory in the Province of Lorestan. To the minister of agriculture, start the pasteurized milk factory at Khorram-Abad. To the Ministry of Industries and the Housing Bank, expedite start-up of the brick, sand, and industrial lime factories at Pol-e Dokhtar.

Pakistan

Foreign Office Voices 'Concern' Over Panama

BK2112153089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1513 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Pakistan has expressed concern over the situation in Panama and expressed the hope that the situation there will return to normal soon. A Foreign Office statement released in Islamabad says that Pakistan has always supported the principle of nonintervention and non-use of force in interstate relations. Pakistan has always supported the peaceful resolution of international conflicts in accordance with principles enshrined in the UN Charter. Pakistan holds democracy dear, not only for its own people, but also attaches great importance to the right of every nation to establish a government of its own choice through free and fair elections.

Pakistan hopes that the current crisis will be resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Panamanian people, the statement adds.

Paper Comments on Outcome of Indian Elections

BK1612153589 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 29 Nov 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Indian Elections and the Defeat of Congress-I"]

[Text] In the Indian general elections, an overwhelming majority of the people have rejected the Congress-I, and now there are distinct possibilities of forming a coalition government in that country, which is counted among the prominent democratic countries of the world. According to reports, the Congress-I, which bagged more than 400 seats in the Lok Sabha in the 1985 elections, has so far not succeeded in getting even a simple majority. Another party, the National Front, has achieved significant success in these elections. However, according to political observers, the Janata Party is in a position to play a vital role in forming any coalition government. Until now, the Congress-I leaders are continuing the process of consultations on whether the party should make efforts to form a coalition government or give a free hand to the opposition in forming the government and sit in the opposition benches and wait for the conceptual and ideological differences to crop up within the opposition government.

The defeat of Congress-I is a major event in the political history of India. Although there are various reasons for the defeat, including the allegations of corruption against Rajiv Gandhi and some members of his cabinet, communal clashes, failure to control the Sikh movement, unemployment, and the government's inability to deal with economic ills, Congress-I's foreign policy also has significantly affected the election results. The politically conscious people of India have been observing that internally, the Rajiv Gandhi government has been unsuccessful in solving the social and economic problems and externally, it has not made any efforts to increase the number of India's friends. India's attitude toward the countries of the region, including Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan, was negative throughout the past 4 years, and it has created an overall situation of downward trend and tension in the region. Definitely, the Congress-I government has made a significant breakthrough in making India a nuclear and military power. During electioneering, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi also made sufficient references in this regard. However, in our opinion, the things he projected as his achievements were among those that were responsible for his defeat. The people of India, who wish their government to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities and provide them with social and economic justice, also want to strengthen friendly relations with other countries, especially with their neighbors. They do not want a flare-up of war frenzy in the region. They want to maintain a peaceful and friendly atmosphere, to reduce military spending, and to allot more and more resources for their welfare.

The election results appear as if the Indian people have established their role in South Asian politics. Rejecting a foreign policy based on confrontation and war frenzy, they have proved that they aspire for reconciliation, peace, and security. It has become indispensable to any government, which will be formed in the near future, to honor these aspirations of the people of India and to formulate its national and foreign policies in their light.

The defeat of Congress-I in the elections is clear evidence that despite being in power for a long period of time, this party has failed to solve the basic problems of the millions of the people of India and to take necessary steps for their security. This change of mood of the Indian people did not appear all of a sudden. For a long time, they provided the opportunity to the Congress-I to solve the problems of India. However, when they realized that this party totally failed in fulfilling their aspirations in domestic and foreign policies, they gave a mandate against it in the recent elections. In the past, the Congress-I took full advantage of the internal conflicts and ideological differences of the opposition. However, in the recent elections none of its tactics proved effective, and it had to suffer defeat. By all means, the sun of the Congress-I's power has now set, and the Indian people are destined to have a coalition government comprising various political parties. Whatever coalition government comes to power in India, it should, by all means, bear in mind the recent mandate of the people and its background.

PRC Public Security Minister Meets Ishaq Khan

BK2112154589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said that Pakistan is eagerly looking forward to promotion of economic and trade ties with China in a manner reflecting the deep-rooted friendship between the two countries. He said this while talking to a seven-member Chinese delegation led by Public Security Minister Wang Fang which called on him in Islamabad today. The president said Pakistan had always regarded China as one of its most dependable friends.

Reciprocating similar sentiments, the Chinese minister reiterated the Chinese resolve to stand by Pakistan and to continue contributing to its economic and technological development. He said that despite changes on the international horizon, friendship between China and Pakistan will retain its traditional warmth.

Cooperation between the two countries in various fields, including industry, commerce, and defense, were discussed during the meeting. Ways and means for promoting cooperation in the public security field also came under discussion.

Chinese Delegation Meets Bhutto, Visits Factories

BK2212092389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Dec 89

[Text] A Chinese delegation led by Lieutenant General Ding Henggao, the minister in charge of the Commission of Science, Technology, and Industry for National Defense, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed matters of common interest and ways and means to further strengthen the friendly ties between the two countries.

The Chinese delegation also visited the Pakistan Ordnance Factory at Wah and the Heavy Rebuild Factory at Taxila.

IAEA Director General Blix Meets Bhutto, Khan

BK2112160289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] Hans Blix, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], called on the president and discussed the global energy situation. The energy requirements of developing countries, including Pakistan, were also reviewed on this occasion. The president said Pakistan is facing an immense shortage of energy and needs maximum international assistance to accelerate the pace of development.

Hans Blix also met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. The prime minister informed Blix that Pakistan's nuclear program is solely for peaceful purposes and that it is prepared to cooperate in efforts to check nuclear proliferation in the region, without any discrimination. She thanked the IAEA for its aid for Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program, especially for the development of the Karachi nuclear power plant.

Dr Blix expressed satisfaction with the performance of the Karachi nuclear power plant.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Groups Meet With Tamil Nadu Chief Minister

BK2112123989 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Dec 89

[Text] EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] has dispatched their MP [member of Parliament] for Trincomalee, Elayathambi Pararajasingham, to Madras for talks with Indian politicians on ways to resolving the current impasse in the conflict in the Northeastern Province, the party spokesman said. He said Mr Pararajasingham's visit was in response to efforts by Tamil Nadu chief minister, M. Karunanidhi, to bring all Tamil groups together for talks to resolve the current crisis.

An LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] delegation, which went to Madras over the weekend for talks with Mr Karunanidhi, returned on Monday. Mr Karunanidhi briefed Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh on his talks with the Tigers on Tuesday and was scheduled to meet him again yesterday.

An EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] delegation consisting of Mrs Premachandran Yogasankari and Santhan is also currently in Madras for talks with Mr Karunanidhi.